

Fall 2023

Forest Hills

www.foresthillsdallas.org

News



Calendar of Events

- National Night Out**
October 3, 6:00-7:30p 10
- Fall Semi-Annual Neighborhood Meeting and Board Elections**
October 10, 6:30p 5
- FHNA Turkey Trot**
November 19-26, 4:00-6:30pm 11
- Holiday Tree Lighting and Bazaar**
December 3, 4:00-6:30pm 11
- Warren Ferris Cemetery Volunteer Days**
1st Saturdays – Oct. 1, Nov. 4, Dec. 2,
9:00a-12:00p
- Street and Alley Clean-up (SAC)**
4th Saturdays – Oct. 28, Nov. 25, Dec. 23
10:00a

Bulky Trash

- October** - Trash can go out
Thursday, October 5th – October 8th
Pick-up starts Oct. 9
- November** - Trash can go out
Thursday, Nov. 9 – Nov. 12
Pick-up starts Nov. 13
- December** - Trash can go out
Thursday, Dec. 7 – Dec. 10
Pick-up starts Dec. 11

Newsletter articles and ads are due Friday, December 1st for the Winter 2024 issue.

SAVE THE DATE!

Don't forget to join us at Times Ten Cellars for our Semi-Annual Meeting on Tuesday, October 10th to hear neighborhood updates and vote for open FHNA Board positions. Arrive at 6:30pm to mingle with your neighbors prior to the start of the meeting at 7:00pm.



By Judy Whalen

With Forest Hills approaching its 100-year celebration in 2024, the FHNA will develop a FH digital library collection of historical information about our homes circa 1920-1930-1940, notable residents, trees, urban myths, fun facts and more!

Please contact History Committee Chair Judy Whalen - 214 535-2077 with information you have to help build the collection into a potential book.



Forest Hills - A Twinkle in His Eye

Warren Angus Ferris could be considered the Father of Forest Hills.

“In 1849, Warren Ferris settled down

after years of surveying the Dallas County area to farming east of White Rock Creek within the borders of what is now Forest Hills. His log cabin stood on the eastern edge of a large grove of trees about 200 yards east of the present junction of St Francis Drive and Garland Road, where he farmed 85 acres. He had six head of horses, 30 head of cattle, 80 head of hogs, two dogs, three cats, 200 chickens and hives of bees. The thickets of White Rock Creek provided some of the best hunting. Everywhere deer, turkeys and prairie chickens were thick as ants on the hills and bear, panthers, wolves and wildcats kept to the river and creek bottoms. Buffalo, wild mustangs and maverick cattle roamed. On White Rock Creek near where the spillway of White Rock Lake is presently located, Ferris built a gristmill. He fished White Rock Creek and also Ash Creek that runs along our present-day Barbaree/Forest Meade neighbors.

Throughout time, Ferris sold off acres of his property. Ferris died in 1873 and was buried in the Warren Angus Ferris Cemetery. In 1988 his

Continued on Page 12



President's Letter

And just like that, two years have flown by! This serves as my final letter to you as your Board President as my term comes to an end December 31st. I want to thank our neighbors who have served throughout the past two years alongside me who are also exiting their roles: Kathleen Davis (Membership & Newcomers and Newsletter), Kade Poulson (Social), Jason Pumpelly (Planning & Zoning), and our Members-at-Large Jaimee Slovak, Christen Richardson and David Benavides. As of this writing, we do not have any candidates running for the position of President. Please consider running if you enjoy working towards the betterment of our special neighborhood. I also want to thank the following Board Members continuing on in their second year: Alicia Alvarez (VP), Erin Marino (Treasurer), Tiffany Hubbard (Secretary), and Kurt Bielawski (Beautification). It's been a pleasure serving our neighborhood and working alongside such dedicated neighbors.

Please come out to Times Ten and run for our positions at our Semi-Annual meeting Tuesday October 10th, 6:30-8:30 p.m. We can't do this without help, and help is what we sorely need from you! The Board is a team of just 13 persons out of approximately 610 homes. But we only have a complete board of 13 if we fill the seven upcoming vacancies starting in January 2024. This is my final ask as your current President to strongly consider running for one of the seven positions open, see p.11 for details on the available positions.

Lastly, a HUGE Thank You to the White Rock East Garden Tour for donating \$13,000 to our organization. They had a stellar year and this translated to an even more generous donation this year. We begin the Fall season with a joint venture with our Security Team in hosting National Night Out, Tuesday October 3rd. Bring the kids for Tiff's Treats, activities, hot dogs and snacks and to meet to our neighborhood first responders (see p.10). The week of November 19-26th we have our annual voluntary Turkey Trot where friends and family come together and walk or run a designated path in our neighborhood and submit your pictures on our social media. See p.11 for more details. Sunday December 3rd is the big annual Tree Lighting event, and we are going bigger this year- More lights! More Activities! Mr. & Mrs. Clause! The train! A raffle! Bazaar! And wine! Join us! See p.11.

SAVE THE DATE: April 27, 2024 – Forest Hills Celebrates 100 Years! Want to get in on the planning? See Page 5.
- Katy O'Mara

FHNA Officers - Committee Chairs & Liaisons

FHNA President

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FHNA Vice President

Alicia Alvarez
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FHNA Secretary

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FHNA Treasurer

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Beautification Chair

Kurt Bielawski
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Social Chair

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FHNA Newsletter Chairs

Kathleen Davis (interim)
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Melissa Dermakar
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Membership & Newcomers Chairs

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Newcomers
newtoforesthills@gmail.com

Planning & Zoning Chair

Jason Pumpelly
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Communications Chair

OPEN POSITION
fhnacommunications@gmail.com

Fundraiser Chairs

OPEN POSITION

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FH Young Children's Club (FHYCC)

Kate Reed - Melissa Pressley
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Ferguson Road Initiative

Daniel Ortman
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Friends of the Warren Ferris Cemetery

Julie Fineman
Julie@julieannfinemann.com

Waste Warriors Liaison

Elizabeth Descarpentries
Elizabethlylekinhead@msn.com

White Rock East Garden Tour

Kathy Glenn
kathyglenn@hotmail.com

BEST
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CALL TO ACTION:

Need Board and Committee Chair Elections

It's that time of the year again when we look to our neighbors to step up and join the Forest Hills Neighborhood Association board. Elections will be held **Tuesday, October 10th, 2023**. Board positions are held for two fiscal years (shadowing starts in October, with official start January 1st of the following year and ending on December 31st of the second term year. Members-at-Large positions are one full calendar year. To be eligible to run, you must be at least 18 years of age, a member in good standing of the FHNA, and reside in the neighborhood.

Board Positions open for election:

Officer Positions:

President - The President shall preside at all Meetings of the Members and of the Board of the Association. The President, subject to the control of the Board, shall have general management of the affairs of the Association and perform all the duties incidental to the office. The President is the spokesperson for the Association and is an ex officio member of all committees.

Standing Committee Chairs and Members at Large:

- **Social Chair** – Oversee event planning and coordination, work with Communication Chair to inform monthly and annual event/meeting communications.
- **Communications Chair** – update FB page, Instagram with event information and updates; coordinate and inform monthly e-blast; provide upcoming event and meeting information to website manager, assist with communication materials.
- (2) **Newsletter Co-Chairs** – Edit and produce the quarterly newsletter by gathering content from neighborhood writers and the FHNA board; collect and compile content and disseminate to our production designer and printer.
- **Fundraising Chair** – work with Board to meet fundraising annual goals.
- **Membership & New Members Chair** – Develop and manage an annual campaign to encourage neighborhood membership dues participation, maintain the online membership database. Be a point of contact for newcomers by welcoming new households with notes/gifts. Track newcomer information.
- (3) **Board Members at Large** (non-voting members) – Observe meetings and provide input at meetings, assist committee Chairs in coordination of events and meetings. The purpose of this position is to gain experience and hopefully run for a Board position in the future.

Please refer to the bylaws on our website, www.foresthillsdallas.org, for all position responsibilities and requirements.

If you or someone you know are interested in running for one of the above positions, please take the following steps:

1. **Reach out to the nominating committee** at fhnaelections@gmail.com by 10/6/23.
2. Refer to the descriptions listed in our upcoming communications and in the bylaws at www.foresthillsdallas.org to confirm obligations.
3. Reach out to the current person holding the position for information if needed (see page 2 of the newsletter).

Thank you in advance for your willingness to volunteer!



Save the Date

May 19th, 2024

White Rock East Garden Tour

May 2024 sounds like a long time away but the Garden Tour Committee has already started planning. Forest Hills is a busy place, especially this year with our Centennial celebrations, but the White Rock East Garden Tour (WREGT) is a not-to-be-missed event.

The tour is our biggest FHNA fundraiser which contributed \$13,500 to our general fund in 2023. It's a time to showcase the Garland Road corridor of Forest Hills, Little Forest Hills and Casa Linda Estates. Meet new neighbors, visit old friends, find that special art

piece from one of the artists, and add to your garden from the plant sale.

Plan on volunteering! Let us know if you'd like to open your garden, host a garden, set up tables at our Volunteer Appreciation Party, put up and take down signage or join the list of generous sponsors.

Save the date, invite your neighbors, family and friends to support this special event.

Contact Kathy Glenn at kathyglenn@hotmail.com if you have any questions and let us know how you'd like to volunteer.



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Dallas, TX 75214
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WORKING TOGETHER TO KEEP OUR NEIGHBORHOOD SAFE

As stated on the Paula Blackmon/District 9 e-mail blast:



Join Us!

#fhbrewing2023 Event Info

WHEN: Friday, November 3, 2023
7:00 PM - 11:00 PM

WHAT: LIVE music, extended hours, open bar, upscaled food, themed raffles, split the pot, exciting live auction items and more!

WHERE: Filter Building on White Rock Lake
2810 White Rock Road

Follow the QR code to purchase tickets and stay current on all the details!



“ Effective July 3, 2023, the Dallas Police Department (DPD) will begin requiring online reporting of certain non-emergency offenses through the Dallas Police Online Reporting System at www.dallaspolice.net. ”

EMERGENCIES: CALL 911 (do not use the online reporting system)

“Crimes in Action”

Defined as you being a victim or witness to a crime happening at that moment. This includes witnessing a person acting suspiciously or hearing gun shots in the distance.



Not sure if you should use 911 or the online reporting tool? When in doubt, call 911.

Priority 1 and 2 Calls:

- Shootings • stabbings • major disturbances.

FHSP Patrol & Emergencies

These calls will continue to be immediately seen by the FHSP neighborhood patrol and if on duty, the officer will immediately respond. (FHSP currently has 65 patrol hours on a weekly basis)

NON-EMERGENCIES Go to: www.dallaspolice.net

Includes but is not limited to:

- **Burglary of Motor Vehicles:** Your vehicle has been burglarized but you are not sure when or didn't see it happen.
- **Theft:** Theft occurred, but you didn't see it.
- **Car Accident:** No injuries, you've traded information, taken pictures, etc.
- **Harassing Phone Calls**

FHSP Patrol & Non-Emergencies

1. Upon completing your online report, you will receive a "Case Number." **WRITE THIS NUMBER DOWN.**
2. E-mail the following information to fhspen@aol.com:
 - The case number • Your full name • Your address
 - Best phone number to reach 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: fhspen@aol.com

Tax Deductible - FHSP is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization. EIN# 75-3123662

Neighbor Series

Transplants from NYC Help Afghans Here and Abroad

Caitlin (originally from Minnesota), her husband Tony (originally from Detroit) and their two kids Zoe (5) and Pierce (4) moved here three years ago from Brooklyn, NY.

The Hobileys had already been considering a move out of Brooklyn and then COVID hit. Given the intensity of COVID in NYC, the family of four grabbed an opportunity that arose in 2020 and headed South. Tony, who is an advertising executive with Omnicom Precision Marketing Group, was asked to start a new agency here.

They were able to quickly find a house with the expert help of Forest Hills resident Becky Oliver, a realtor with Briggs Freeman Sotheby's International. Caitlin immediately fell in love with their 1940s stone house on a beautiful lot full of trees - quite the change from the concrete streets of Brooklyn! Now, the Hobileys are proud residents of the neighborhood and absolutely love everything about living in East Dallas (except maybe the summer heat?!). They've made lifelong friends in the community and are also involved at their children's schools. Pierce is in Pre-K at The Children's Center and Zoe is a kindergartner at White Rock Montessori.

Dallas is known for its fabulous shopping, cuisine and nightlife ... but as of 2022, did you know that it's also one of the major resettlement destinations for Afghan refugees in Texas? In 2021, when US troops withdrew and the Taliban took over Afghanistan, hundreds of thousands of Afghans who had worked with the US in some capacity over the twenty years of war had to flee their country or risk their lives under the Taliban regime. Thousands ended up in Texas, and many landed here in Dallas.

But there are thousands still stuck

in Afghanistan, fearing for their lives. The Taliban has brutally targeted anyone they can find who worked with the US, as well as the families of these brave American partners. Caitlin, a documentary filmmaker, has been working with this community since before the fall of Kabul. Her most recent documentary film, *RETROGRADE*, chronicles the end of America's longest war through the experience of one of the last US Army Green Beret teams in Afghanistan as well as through the eyes of a young, fierce Afghan Army commander as he fought to save his country.

RETROGRADE, which was commissioned by National Geographic Documentary Films, premiered at the Telluride Film Festival and went on to win Best Feature Documentary at the Edward R. Murrow Awards and a Producing Award from DOCNYC as well as receive nominations for Best Documentary Film at the Producers Guild Awards and the Directors Guild Awards. It was even shortlisted for an Oscar! The film also received six Emmy nominations, so Caitlin was in New York in September at the awards show and was styled by her dear friend and neighbor Charlotte Golden Barbera, a world class stylist and producer. You should see Charlotte's closet of vintage!

One of Caitlin's endeavors since the film was released (you can stream it on Hulu or Disney+) has been to continue to help Afghan partners of the US still stuck in their country under the murderous Taliban regime. She works closely with an organization run by current and former Green Berets, called the 1208 Foundation. The organization initially focused on aiding Afghan fighters whose specific mission had been to clear minefields for Green Berets in advance of operations. Numerous



Green Berets credit these Afghans with saving their lives. A group of these fighters appear in *RETROGRADE* - and many are stuck in Afghanistan with death threats from the Taliban looming over them and their families. The visa process to gain access to the US for these partners has been excruciatingly long and cumbersome. Some applicants are on a waitlist that will take over a decade.

Caitlin has hosted multiple fundraisers in the Dallas area to raise money to help these men and women and their families who are in desperate need - and who put their lives on the line for our country. Numerous Forest Hills neighbors have generously contributed to the cause, and if you're interested, please contact Caitlin, who can give you more information about ways to contribute. She can tell you personal stories of people still in dire need for help and would be so appreciative for any support.

When they find the time to relax, Caitlin and Tony have developed a reputation for hosting impromptu fire pit gatherings in their front yard in the colder months. Keep an eye out this fall/winter and please stop and visit if you see the flames glowing!

Caitlin: cbmcnally@gmail.com
Tony: tonyhobley@gmail.com



Top Three Forest Hills Trash Faux Pas

Dallas's Recycling Program Is Real! But Needs Your Help!

By Elizabeth Descarpentries

NO!

YES!

1. Putting cardboard in 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).



2. Bagging your recycling:

Put your recyclables straight into the bin instead (to eliminate the extra step of unbagging at the recycling facility). If they are "clean, empty, and dry," your indoor and outdoor bins will be dry and odor free.



3. Putting "soft plastic" in recycling bin:

Soft plastic, like plastic bags, bubble wrap, dry cleaning bags, grocery bags, packaging, and film – isn't recyclable by the City of Dallas and clogs up recycling machines. Put it in the garbage or take it to Recycle Revolution.



National Night Out

Tuesday, October 3rd | 6-7:30PM

San Pedro in between Whittier and St. Francis

Weather permitting, the FHNA and the FHSP will host our annual **National Night Out Block Party**. Representatives from the Forest Hills Neighborhood Association, the Forest Hills Security Program, Waste Warriors and other FH organizations will be on hand to answer questions.

- Join neighbors of all ages for **FREE good eats**: hot dogs, chips, lemonade and Tiff's Treats!
- Welcome members from the **Dallas Fire-Rescue Department** and climb aboard their fire truck.
- Hear from our own **ENP Officer Gabriel Ortiz**.
- Reduce waste — remember to **bring your own refillable cup** or beverage of your choice to the event.

Thank you to our neighbors on San Pedro for agreeing to donate their block for this event!



POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

What is National Night Out — NNO?

National Night Out is an annual community building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships as well as neighborhood camaraderie.

- FREE good eats
- Dallas Fire-Rescue Dept
- Our own ENP Officer Gabriel Ortiz



Sunday November 12, 1-3p

Newcomers Meet & Greet

The FHNA Newcomers Committee would like to invite all neighbors who have moved into the neighborhood in 2023 to attend our upcoming Wine and Cheese Party. It will be an informal meet and greet and give new neighbors and chance to meet each other as well as members of the board who will be in attendance.

The event will be held on November 12th from 1-3 p.m. at the Davis Residence located at 8138 Forest Hills Blvd.

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



2023 Forest Hills Tree Lighting and Holiday Bazaar Event

Date: Sunday, December 3, 4:00-6:30p

Location: Intersection of Forest Hills Blvd and Breezewood

Tree Lighting at 5:30pm

Come kick off the season on Sunday, December 3rd by lighting up the Breezewood tree while you sip wine from our wine booth, get cheesy with the Dallas Grilled Cheese food truck, and participate in a raffle all while shopping the holiday bazaar! Kids will enjoy writing letters to Santa, making crafts and a train ride while everyone is enjoying hot chocolate and taking pictures with Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus. There will be fun for the everyone!

Be a vendor at the Bazaar! (Space is limited)

- Must a physical good or item that is relative to the holiday season
- Must have paid your FHNA 2023 dues (we check)
- OR Not a Forest Hills neighbor? Fee is \$75
- Request a vendor spot by emailing FHNASOCIAL@GMAIL.COM
- Bring your own set up that is nor more than 10x10 (table, chairs, etc.)

Please remember to bring your own chairs and reusable mugs for this event.

Volunteer for this event, by contacting FHNASOCIAL@GMAIL.COM. We will certainly need help with setting up and breaking down the event.

November 19-26, at your convenience

FHNA Turkey Trot 2023

Location: Maps will be provided for a 5K path and for a one-mile path for these trots within our neighborhood.

Join us for our annual Turkey Trot!

You can run, jog, or walk at anytime within the week of Thanksgiving! We will have a one-mile trot as well as a 5K trot that will both be marked and mapped out for your convenience.

Please send a picture of yourself and/or your family participating in the Turkey Trot to FHNASOCIAL@GMAIL.COM.

If you'd like to volunteer for this event, please reach out to FHNASOCIAL@GMAIL.COM.



Welcome Newcomers!

8500 Block of Eustis

Jennifer Sparrow

8400 Block of Forest Hills Blvd

Alicia Gerte

Jason McLaughlin

8200 Block of Santa Clara

Alan & Michelle Dabdoub

8400 Block of Santa Clara

James Mark Fulmer

8300 Block of San Cristobal

Cole and Kasey Henley

8200 of San Fernando

Scott Magdziak & Deirdre Leane

Jacob & Ashley Moss

8300 Block of San Leandro

Karl & Elaine Chiao

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



Century-old Forest Hills

Digging into Our Past

Continued from Page 1

cemetery at St Francis and San Leandro received a Texas Historical Marker, bringing long-overdue attention to the accomplishments of this pioneer Dallas settler.

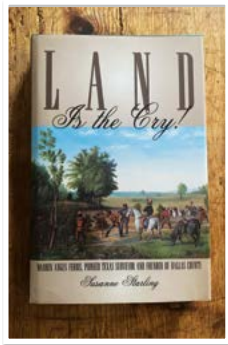
After the homestead was deserted by 1875, the old log cabin became a stopover for drifters, as did the vacant Ferris farmhouse he had built later. Some say the James boys (gang) stayed there and Sam Bass and his gang holed up in the farmhouse prior to their robbery of the Texas & Pacific train in Mesquite in 1878. The house was destroyed by fire around 1909.”



READ MORE
At “descendant section”
of Friends of Warren Ferris
website



READ MORE
Book excerpt from *Land is
the Cry!* Warren Angus Ferris,
Pioneer Texas Surveyor and
Founder of Dallas County



Rock Valley. In this once shallow-lined valley Indigenous Peoples hunted for bison that came to drink from White Rock Creek and graze its grassy banks. It was there that Warren Ferris had once fished and had built a grist mill little knowing that eventually it would be converted into a beautiful lake.

In the early 1900s when Dallas had a growing need for water resources, a dam was built on White Rock Creek forming a reservoir and the first water from it was pumped into the Dallas mains. Dallasites quickly discovered the lake and the surrounding land was an ideal place for outdoor sports. The lake became known as the “People’s Playground” with weekend cabins being the first structures along its banks. At one time there were more than a hundred private fishing cabins! A fish house still exists in the back yard of one San Fernando Way house!



READ MORE
Excerpt from *White Rock
Lake Museum History WRL*



Photo by Johnny Williams, Jr.

Build a Lake and They Will Come

In the 1840s, while Texas was still an independent republic, settlers like Warren Ferris began establishing homesteads on the high ground surrounding the White

By April 1924, Leon L. Fechenbach had dedicated the plat of the Forest Hills Addition, six miles from the Dallas city limits, bounded by Garland Road (old Bankhead Highway); Lakeland Drive (old John West Road); the Santa Fe Railroad tracks; Highland Road (then called Wilshire Blvd.); and one block of San Rafael Drive. An advertisement in the November 30, 1924 Dallas Morning News shows an English Tudor house with the headline, ‘Forest Hills along the shores of White Rock Lake’ and the proclamation, “Your home in a forest” - built among massive oak, elm, and pecan trees—built within a stone’s throw of beautiful White Rock Lake—is possible in only one addition—FOREST HILLS—and with the city’s announcement of White Rock Lake being turned into a pleasure lake upon the completion of the Garza project, assures you all the advantages at your front door.”

At that time, Forest Hills was truly in the country and was one of the few wooded areas around the lake, which



FOREST HILLS
 along the shores of White Rock Lake

Your home in a forest!

Your home built among massive oak, elm and pecan trees—built within a stone's throw of beautiful White Rock Lake—is possible in only one addition—

Forest Hills

—and with the city's announcement of White Rock Lake being turned into a pleasure lake upon the completion of the Garza project, assures you all the advantages at your front door.



H.W. Brouse
 exclusive agent
 and developer
 Magnolia Bldg

already has been spent on residential construction and a quarter-million more is in view, according to H.W. Brouse, developer.”



Fast Forward 100 Years

One hundred years later Forest Hills is a quiet, tree-shaded area of homes without the feeling of being within the large bustling city of Dallas. Its residents can be seen throughout the neighborhood, walking, running and bicycling along White Rock Lake and generally enjoying this unique oasis of calm in the city.



lured the first local home builders. Forest Hills was officially annexed into Dallas in May 1945.

Another news article boasted, “One of the most beautiful scenic home spots, Forest Hills addition, owned by Leon L. Fechenbach is a thickly wooded hill overlooking White Rock Lake. Like the additions on the other sides, this has been completely paved and improved and the Dallas Gas company is now laying 6,000 feet of high-pressure gas mains to connect it with the city fuel system. Forest Hills has its own water supply, a 1,200-foot artesian well with a high-pressure pumping plant. More than \$50,000

Forest Hills Turns 100!

We need your help

Our official named history began April 11, 1924 when the owners of this property dedicated Forest Hills to the public to install utilities and streets. We will be celebrating our centennial next year!

A small group of neighbors have begun the planning, but we want to get others involved so this can be a fantastic event for the whole neighborhood. We hope every household will join in on some level with their time, money or at least participation. Getting to know your neighbors is the best part of living here. We need your support!

Our centennial celebration will include a big party on April 27, 2024, a book or compilation of photos, stories and history, and the featuring of some of the older homes in the neighborhood on the White Rock East Garden Tour next year.

If you would like to volunteer to help with planning our Centennial Extravaganza, please contact Susan Bailey at 214.906.0622 or skbmoi@swbell.net. We would love to hear from those of you who have experience in planning school carnivals or parties. The planning of this event is ongoing and because it has already begun, let us know as soon as possible if you can help.

We need help with parade planning, food and



beverages, games and prizes, music, tents, decorations and managing the budget.

We also have a committee led by Judy Whalen to gather historical information on our neighborhood. If you would like to help research or compile this information, take photos, or if you have historical information about your home or another home in the neighborhood, please contact Judy at judithkaywhalen@icloud.com or 214.535.2077.

Lastly, if you know of older homes that would be a great fit for the White Rock East Garden Tour next May, please contact Kathy Glenn at kathyglenn@hotmail.com or 214.802.2574. Thank you in advance for your help!

Sanger Stallion Corner

By Katy O'Mara



This is a year of change for Sanger! After 10 years as Principal, Mr. Hector Martinez has been promoted to Executive Director over a different district school and the Stallions excitedly welcomed the former Assistant Principal, Alex Merritt as their new Principal this year. Congratulations to Mr.

Merritt! They've also welcomed a new IB (International Baccalaureate) Director for the start of building the IB program as well as our first Theater teacher. The school year kicked off with a Back to School Bash in September complete with a Dunk the Teacher booth (student favorite). More to come in the Winter edition newsletter.

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be a Sanger friend? Consider becoming a Sponsor. Sponsorships to the PTA assist us in supporting scholarships, field trips and enrichment programs for all grade levels, keeping our Hygiene and Food Lockers stocked, and providing extra supplies and appreciation to the teachers who work so hard here. BE A SPONSOR! See Sponsorship levels here:

alexsangerpta.membershiptoolkit.com/packet/38

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FRIENDS OF THE WARREN FERRIS



Principle Merritt discusses the Friends of the Warren Ferris Cemetery projects with teachers

FWFC Board Holds August Meeting

A highlight of the August board meeting was the unanimous vote to install Lee West, CEO/Founder of RD4AG, a private organization for agricultural and environmental field research, as Co-Creator of the related Constellation of Living Memorials pilot project. Also approved were a Board of Advisors to include Harryette Ehrhardt educator and former Texas State Representative, Katherine Singleton chief preservation planner City of Dallas, Shaniqua Commings Remembering Black Dallas Board and founding member, Victoria Clow cemetery archaeologist, Ian Watkinson Fellow of the Royal Entomological Society of London, Chris Helzer, director of science for the Nature Conservancy in Nebraska, Sandra Alcaraz head of entomological and agriculture research programs, Samuel Discua-Duarte doctoral studies on land use impact on native pollinator communities in Texas, Madeline Mellinger founding member and current president of the Foundation for Environmental and Agricultural Education.

Corner from the Warren Ferris Cemetery is Alex Sanger Preparatory School. While the Friends group have been very aware of the school's proximity, we found out that many at Sanger were in the dark about us! Just before the Pre-K 3 through 8th grade students returned for the fall semester, our own Patty Griffin and Julie Fineman (along with support from Katy O'Mara, Pam King, Connie Koval, Monica Newbury,

and Katrena and Julie Kolner) delivered an exciting and interactive program to their 50-strong faculty on the delights in learning located just across the road at the cemetery. Sanger's school motto is "We are AVID learners" and the receptive audience of educators proved the motto apt. During the small group tours of the cemetery grounds, ideas were flowing on how to utilize this living laboratory and outdoor classroom. A big thanks to Sanger's principal, Alexander Merritt (pictured above in the green Sanger Stallions t-shirt) for his enthusiastic welcome and encouraging remarks. From science to art and from history to math, we can't wait to help these collaborations come to life in the coming months and years.

The story continues. Just published in the White Rock Lake Newsletter written by Natalie Merrill

Patty Griffin, who has a background in education, first became involved with the Warren Ferris Cemetery property as a member of the North Dallas Master Naturalists because of her interest in volunteering in nature-oriented capacities. She participated in the cleanup and restoration of the property and aimed to help it become an inviting place for wildlife and an appealing place for people to visit, as well. Her continued participation in the workdays at the cemetery sparked her interest to become more involved with the FWFC

Throughout time, Griffin became acquainted with Julie Fineman, the vice president of the board of the



Patty Griffin leads a tour in the Ferris garden with teachers.

WARREN FERRIS CEMETERY

FWFC. When Fineman learned Griffin was a teacher, she asked her to join the board as the education director in an effort to develop a relationship with the Alex Sanger Preparatory School across the street from the cemetery.

“We wanted to form a partnership to help them find ways to incorporate the gifts of nature into any subject matter and at every grade level,” Griffin said. “We are encouraged by their positive interest in experiential learning and in using the cemetery for their educational purposes, and we are here to help that happen.”

Alex Merritt, principal of Alex Sanger Prep, said he discovered the cemetery while on a walk with colleagues a few years ago to get outside during the first year of the pandemic. At the time, he was an assistant principal at the school. Griffin reached out last summer, and when Merritt returned from vacation and was named principal, he knew the partnership with the FWFC would be highly beneficial for teachers and students because of the learning opportunities it will provide.

“We know a lot about how children learn, and they don’t learn anything new in the abstract,” he said. “Experiential learning grounds kids in the things they can touch and feel and experience so that when they encounter it elsewhere, they have this experience to fall back on. That’s a rich experience they can pull from.”

Merritt said many students might not have previously known about the cemetery, even if they have seen it in the neighborhood, and becoming more familiar with it allows them to learn more about not only a community historical marker, but also more about themselves.

“When it comes to history, you absolutely want them to know the history of their own community — where they fit into it and who paved the way for them,” he said. “A graveyard can spark that interest. This is their neighborhood, and I bet a lot of the kids know it’s there, but they may not know the story of it and how it connects with them.”

And for Merritt, ensuring that students are able to form those connections that help them discover more about themselves is essential.

“Social studies in the lower grades of elementary



Patty Griffin setting up presentation table for teachers

school starts in your neighborhood,” he said. “Grounding them here where they are right now helps them start with their identities, and it grows and grows from there.”

While the cemetery provides educational opportunities for students, it also creates a unique space for residents and visitors to spend time and appreciate the nature and peace it offers.

“The Warren Ferris Cemetery is a beautiful wildlife habitat and Monarch Waystation open for all to enjoy,” Griffin said. “We encourage the local community to come and enjoy the seasonal changes and peacefulness the property provides. We provide places for people to sit in the shade and read, sketch, journal or explore the variety of wildlife to be found.”

Griffin also noted that the work of the board is not complete. Individuals who wish to contribute to the Friends of the Warren Ferris Cemetery can make donations at friendsofthewarrenferriscemetery.org and discover more on how the organization hopes to continue to preserve and honor the historical landmark.

“The FWFC has a lot more land restoration to do,” she said, “and as we remove invasive plants and shrubs, we plant new sedges, grasses, native shrubs, flowers and trees, which all take funds to purchase.”

Continued on Page 20

FRIENDS OF THE WARREN FERRIS CEMETERY

Great things are happening with the Friends of the Warren Ferris Cemetery here in our neighborhood.

With the simple, albeit labor-intensive, act of ridding the cemetery grounds of invasive plant species, we embarked on a learn-as-you-go lesson of discovery. More appropriate and sustainable plants were introduced. In time, not only did these “new kids on the block” take root, but we found that other species that had been suppressed were now stepping out of the shadows.

As the area was reverting to a more natural landscape, we saw an opportunity to enhance the discovery experience for wider audiences. We are creating self-guided tours using QR-coded signage on site that can be easily updated as our recovery and reclamation for both natural and cultural efforts continue.

In further outreach, we have created and promoted our two-year pilot program known as Constellation of Living Memorials. With template in hand, we are sharing with other groups how to organize and bring this renewal to fruition. Our vision is to have a network of once abandoned cemeteries brought back to life as living, breathing green oases, for communities to enjoy.

The re-introduction of native plants in these spaces, whether urban or rural, is a reclamation for future generations and a testimony to the people who have gone before us.

The FWFC is excited about the caliber of guidance these people bring to the effort of expanding the ecological influence of the Warren Ferris Cemetery to other neglected cemeteries in the region.

For more information about the Constellation of Living Memorials, see friendsofthewarrenferriscemetery.org/projects

Friends Awarded Auspicious Grant Funding

The FWFC is pleased to announce incredible news! The Texas Historical Foundation will be providing a \$30,000 matching grant to be allocated to each of the six cemeteries in the Constellation of Living Memories pilot project. The participating cemeteries will be awarded \$5,000 each to match their own fundraising efforts directed towards revitalizing native landscape on their own grounds. The participating cemeteries to date include: Oakland, Western Heights, W.W. Glover, Campo de

santo Cemento Grande – pending property owner approval, Oak Cliff – pending board approval, Albert Carver, and Five Mile.

New Pollinator Signs

To further its educational goals, the Ferris Cemetery recently sprouted new educational signs throughout the cemetery, that feature the good works of the hard-working, resident, winged ones. A tour through the cemetery is now an even more valuable experience in learning how pollinators support ecological stability.



Momentum

The FWFC spring fundraiser, *A Walk Among the Wildflowers*, raised over \$14,000 for the continuing restoration, maintenance and educational programs of the cemetery. We are so thankful for the support of sponsors, neighbors, friends and fans.

Sponsors included Monster Tree Service, the Forest Hills Neighborhood Association, Lamont Realty Group and White Rock Self Storage. Catering was provided by Ascension Coffee.

Volunteer Days

FWFC volunteer days are the first Saturday of the month, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. No need to RSVP, just come when you can to help. Garden tools are provided but bring drinking water and gloves. See you at the corner of St. Francis and San Leandro drive.

in loving memory



Carolyn Laivins, a long time Forest Hills resident, passed away July 9, 2023 in Dallas, TX at the age of 79.

Juris and Carolyn completed building their home in Forest Hills in 1986 and have lived here since. They were active in the neighborhood, attending the semi-annual meetings, tree lighting and holiday bazaar, and July 4 picnics and also volunteered at FHNA events.

A native of Wichita, KS, Carolyn graduated from Wichita High School Southeast in 1961 and attended Oklahoma State University, where she was a member of ZTA and graduated with a BS in 1966. She then moved to Dallas where she met her husband, Juris, and worked at Baylor University Medical

Center as a medical technologist in hematology for over 30 years.

Carolyn was a devoted mother, active member of the community and her church and a long-time patron of the arts in Dallas. She is survived by her husband of 53 years - Juris, sister Janet Mickle and her husband Pat, daughter Larisa and her husband Danny Wang, son Andris and his wife Emily Zalkovsky, and grandson Frankie. She was preceded in death by her parents Cy and Novelte Eppler and brother Wayne Eppler.

A memorial service was held at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, August 19, 2023 at Christ Lutheran Church in Dallas, TX followed by a reception. Donations can be made to Christ Lutheran Church General Fund or Texas Winds Musical Outreach.



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Lookin' Good in the Neighborhood

East Dallas' new bistro & cocktail bar receives warm welcome.

With his name on the door and 50 years of hospitality experience behind him, restaurateur Mike McRae is intensely focused on his latest concept, McRae's American Bistro & Cocktails. The restaurant officially opened in July at 9913 Garland Road in East Dallas. Mike's passion for his new place is no surprise, because it's located in the heart of his old stomping grounds. The 66-year-old Bryan Adams High School grad is welcoming friends and neighbors – old and new – to come in, say hello, and experience his dream. And the response has been overwhelming.

"McRae's is the culmination of years of ideas that came together with a lot of teamwork, luck, long days and late nights," said Mike, who saw an opportunity to manifest his vision in the unfinished lounge space left by a previous tenant. "I took it over because this is my neighborhood; it's where McRae's was meant to be. And the best part is having so many guests tell us we're a great addition to the community."

Mike added that his first job at 15 was as a busboy at The Sizzler Steakhouse just down Garland Road, and he once threw a paper route just 900 feet from McRae's front door.

McRae's provides an intimate setting where folks can drink, dine, relax, and converse in casual sophistication. Inside, guests are immersed in an imaginative wonderland. The environment reflects

Mike's individual style – a unique blend of vintage décor and whimsical nature. The restaurant's creative cuisine and handcrafted cocktails have been carefully selected, tested, and reimaged to ensure they measure up to expectations. Adding to the distinctive ambience is Mike's personally curated playlist of over 670 songs. Finishing touches are currently being made to the outdoor patio that features ivy-covered cedar fencing, ceiling fans, misters, and chandeliers.

"We anticipate the patio being quite popular come cooler temperatures," Mike said. "With the recent installation of our new humidifier behind the bar, we're introducing Late Night Cigars on the Patio, for after-dinner hours."

Mike is the creative mind behind the award-winning Table 13, a Sinatra-esque fine dining and entertainment experience in Addison. He also owns the legendary Stan's Blue Note on Lower Greenville – Dallas' oldest, continuously operated drinking establishment. And he owns Dodie's Cajun at The Harbor in Rockwall and at The Village in Allen. He even had a hand in Dick's Last Resort in the West End until he sold it in 2021.

McRae's American Bistro & Cocktails opens at 5 p.m. Sunday through Thursday; at 4:30 p.m. Friday; and 4 p.m. Sunday. They offer Weekend Brunch with a Bloody Mary Bar, 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Additional parking is located in the lot behind the restaurant. Follow McRae's on Facebook and Instagram, and visit mcraesamericanbistro.com to join their VIP Club and stay in-the-know about special offers and updates.

CONTRIBUTORS NEEDED



If you have an idea for a great story or regular feature, are interested in writing features about people in the neighborhood, or have an idea about an individual or family who should be featured, please email us at fhnnewsletter101@gmail.com.



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Yard of the Month

By Wendy Rettinger

July 2023

Tony & Maura Cornell, 8260 San Cristobal Dr

Proud to be An American

In July, what better way to feel patriotic than to display the American flag and decorate in Red, White and Blue! This winner has small and large flags, a bunting flag on the front porch, flag windsocks, a giant blow up patriotic American Eagle and lots of whimsical garden decorations (including Snoopy and Woodstock). Once you take all this in your eye will be delighted with beautiful Hibiscus flowers, flowering Crape Myrtles, Yaupon Hollies and Japanese Maples. Any time you want to feel proud to be an American, take a drive by this YOM winner!



August 2023

Brad & Tiffany Davis, 1409 San Rafael Dr

Shade is Where It's At

Summer has been a scorcher and we all wish we had a beautiful shady yard like this YOM winner. They recently lifted their tree canopy to get a better view of their stunning home and sodded an entirely new Zoysia grass lawn. It looks fantastic. A winding path leads to the double front doors adorned with wreaths and flanked with potted plants. Stop and cool off in the shade on your next walk and enjoy the landscaping, which includes an abundance of shade loving ground cover, many bushes, a grand Magnolia tree and a well placed Japanese Maple tree for all to enjoy.



September 2023

John & Sarah Zavala, 8114 Forest Hills Blvd

Thriving in the Dog Days of Summer

Texas' heat has taken a toll on our neighborhood, but our September YOM has survived and thrived! From the street, your eye catches the pretty pink vinca flowers lining the flowerbeds, loaded with rosebushes, Hibiscus and other perennials. The yard has year-round color from the Little Gem Magnolias and shade from themany trees, including Chinese Elms and Southern Live Oaks. Be sure to check this yard out and you might can catch a glimpse of the family enjoying their putting green located just inside the gate by the front door, or sitting and relaxing on the chairs on front porch.





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