

The Reporter JANUARY 2008 ISSUE

Burglars Strike Not Once . . . But Twice

It's everyone's worst nightmare. Your home is hit once by burglars and you do everything in your power to make it more secure. Then, the unthinkable. They come back a second time, and this time, it's worse.

Our neighbor, Sharon Seal, lived the experience and fortunately was not home at the time of the incidents. Both burglaries occurred while she was at work and her young son, Connor, was at school. This does nothing to ease the anxiety that lingers after something like this occurs.

The first incident left her with a broken back door and missing electronics. The second incident, right before Christmas, left her with a



8557 Eustis Avenue

bare Christmas tree, a broken front door, missing electronics, jewelry and other items. This attack was more intense. Imagine her fear, not to mention the large costs of door repairs and again, seeking to secure her home.

We are proud to report no one was hurt and Jakey-Jack, the darling Pug dog, was left unharmed. What remains remarkable is the Forest Hills Neighborhood response led by Mari Anne Mourer. Mari Anne organized a band of angels to replace the gifts taken from under the tree to ensure Sharon and Connor had a Christmas.

This is a demonstration of what "Neighborhood and Community" is all about. Thank you, Forest Hills Neighbors, for caring for your own and not being selfish when another is in need.

Cont. on page 3, in The Neighbor's Column

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

— by Bill Foerster



Let's Get Started

I extend a wish to everyone for a happy, fulfilling and prosperous New Year from the FHNA board. Hope everyone had a warm and inspiring Holiday Season. Now it is time to focus our efforts on Keep Moving Forward.

Bill Foerster President We are looking forward to another great year. The reason for our optimism is the momentum we have built, the increase in volunteers participating in our committees and increase in FHNA membership. Our goal for the coming year is to facilitate additional opportunities for Forest Hills neighbors to interact in areas that are meaningful. To accomplish this we have created a survey designed to provide feedback allowing us to focus our efforts in ways that will allow us to reach

out and touch more of our neighbors.

Included in this newsletter is the neighborhood survey. The purpose of the survey is to help the board understand the demographics of our neighborhood and identify our neighbors' interests and passions. The survey is being presented in a format that ensures the respondents anonymity. Please give the survey your careful consideration. We will evaluate the responses and design programs and/or committees that are responsive to our neighbors' interests.

Thank you in advance for your participation in the survey.

FHNA Board Kicks Off First Meeting of 2008

— by Neoma Twining

FHNA Board is on a mission. On a mission to define it's mission statement that is. It's always necessary to state and restate where you're headed. Everyone needs "goals."

The board and 13 of its' members convened at the home of John and Camilla Mitchell on Monday, January 21 at 7pm. The focus of the meeting, led by President Bill Foerster, was re-orientation and goal setting for 2008.



The Neighbors Column



Sharon Seal & Connor Residents

"The Grinch DID NOT Steal Our Christmas!"

— by Sharon Seal

With a child in the home, we were sure to watch "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" several times this holiday season. Who, but perhaps the Whos in Whooville, would know the meaning this would take on for our family this holiday season? When Grinches came to our home a few days before Christmas they took things from throughout our home (including goodies waiting under the Christmas tree), our incredible neighbors were not going to allow this to spoil a bright-eyed boy's Christmas (or a concerned mom's) and how they succeeded! Things began appearing to brighten the holiday — gifts were on the porch when we arrived home, some were delivered in person by great neighbors, and others were delivered on Santa's

behalf by some of the kindest elves you would ever want to meet. It would take more space than this paper would allow to tell you of all the acts of kindness we experienced — words of encouragement, assurances that we can call many of you at any time, generous gifts that helped to replace some that had been taken, even a holiday ham as delicious as the Whos' "roast beast." More than anything we experienced the true meaning of Christmas — unselfish love and caring. We live in a special neighborhood with great neighbors! Even our police officers have gone above and beyond the call. Thanks to each of you for making our holiday merry and bright — we had a Christmas that this mom will never forget.

Deightons Bring Leadership to Support 7HNA

The FHNA is constantly recruiting from our talented resident base. Meet Tom and Mary Deighton. Tom is FHNA's new Advisory Council Chairman. His role over the next 6 months will be to recruit substantial talent from Forest Hills to serve in board and committee positions. Tom owns a travel service and has resided with Mary and their college-aged daughter on San Fernando for the past 14 years.

Mary currently serves as parliamentarian on the FHNA board. Both individuals bring unique skills and talents to their positions. The FHNA board seeks to identify those with strong leadership skills who possess the



Tom Deighton

Advisory Council

Chairman

time and energy necessary to serve the Forest Hills Community. Congratulations Tom and Mary!

- Has lived in East Dallas for 24 years
- Built an architecturally designed home in Forest Hills 14 years ago, with interiors designed by Mary. Used Garry Brown, a FH resident, as contractor
- Daughter Elizabeth is currently attending the University of Oklahoma seeking a degree in Journalism
- Owns an online travel agency (<u>www.addtofavoritestravel.com</u>)
- Interests include travel, wines, art, Vespa riding, birding, golf, yoga, walking and the great outdoors



Mary Deighton FHNA Parliamentarian

· Been married to lovely wife Mary for 26 years



2007 Christmas Tree Lighting A Success!



Event Chairs Tamela Southan and Shelly Clem

Thanks to everyone who braved the Mt. Everest-like conditions on Saturday Dec. 17th to view the First Annual FHNA Christmas Tree Lighting. The turnout was great considering the weather. Kids of all ages enjoyed riding the train and going caroling. Hot cider, chocolate and fire kept us warm inside and out.

The residence of 8260 San Cristobal was announced the winner of the First Annual Christmas Light Contest. It was great to see more houses were decorated this year. Next year's contest will be decided by committee.

We are looking for volunteers to judge next year's contest. We are also going to solicit volunteers to decorate the FHNA Christmas Tree. If you are interested please contact the Social Committee.

It was a great Christmas season for Forest Hills in the public medium. We would like to thank the Advocate for mentioning our Christmas activities in two

separate issues. We also would like to thank WB33 TV for profiling one of our houses in their newscast. We hope everyone had a great holiday and look forward to getting to know our neighbors in the NEW YEAR!

Meet Newcomer's Co-Chair, Kelly Miller!

Crime Chair, Judy Whalen and Kelly Miller hold the volunteer title of "newcomers co-chairs." In tandem, they are simply unbeatable at what they do. Judy designed fabulous information packets presented to newcomers

when they move in to their new Forest Hills home. Judy's awesome wingman (in this case, wingwoman) is Kelly Miller pictured to the right. Kelly and husband Michael have been FH resident for 2¹/₂ years. They have one son, Clint (23) and several pets. Two dogs, Cupcake and Charming Charlie, two cats, Bella and Pirate. Kelly is a retired flight attendant for American Airlines. Currently, in addition to her newcomer's volunteer gig, she is a real estate agent with Coldwell Banker and Substitute teacher for pre-k — 2nd grade at area elementary schools. Congratulations Kelly!!



Status of Tree Preservation

You may recall the tree committee of FH, led by John Mitchell, circulated a petition bringing attention to preservation of trees in Forest Hills.

We presented collected petitions to Therese O'Donnell, City Manager, and received support plus encouragement to take our concerns forward.

Specifically, the tree committee requested an amendment to the existing tree ordinance under city code. Our specific request mandated qualified arborist involvement each time a tree needed to be cut down. We learned in the process one tree cut on one man's property can affect the growth and life of a tree on the next man's property given the extensive root system. The goal of the committee is to save as many trees as possible.

Since this time we have formulated an amendment asking for this tree protection. If agreed to, this amendment means no builder, home-owner, contractor or utility worker could cut into trees on FH lots without first consulting an arborist. Most conscientious home owners and builders take the extra measure to involve an arborist from the start. Those familiar with our neighborhood realize the value and beauty these trees provide.

Recently, we fielded many calls from residents complaining about utility workers taking out trees in our alleyways. The city has the right to keep trees and branches free of electrical wire hazards. We have met with the authorities on this matter and are vigilantly working with the City to protect as many trees as possible.

For more information on our upcoming tree purchases and plantings, go to the website and check under the tab marked "beautification."

WANT TO ACCESS POLICE REPORTS? HERE'S HOW . . .

— by Judy Whalen

1. Simply go to <u>www.dallaspolice.ne</u>t.

2. Click on the "Public Access" button.

3. At the main window, click "offense Incidents" or "911 calls" on left.

4. Enter "Reporting Area" 1172 or 1173 for Forest Hills (we have two).

5. Enter the dates and access.

7. Once there, you can click on underlined service # for more info.

8. Go back and enter the other remaining reporting area # for FH.

EXCEPTIONS

BMV (burglary of motor vehicles) that are listed on Garland Rd are usually Arboretum related. Also other reports appearing in 1172 & 1173, which are not Forest Hills related are White Rock Lake at Garland and the gated communities off San Rafael and Highland.

A CHRISTMAS GIFT OF SECURITY

December 2, 2007

We would like to make this donation to the Forest Hills Security Program in addition to our regular dues. We are very concerned that this vital program is not being supported by our neighbors. A police officer on the scene who knows the area is a much more effective crime deterrent than any alarm, burglar bar or dog. It is unfortunate that so many of our neighbors are unwilling to support this program that is so beneficial to both our personal and economic well-being.

We are longtime area residents of the M-Streets, Lake Highlands and now Forest Hills and have seen the results that a homeowner funded security program can make in a neighborhood.

We love Forest Hills and would like to make this donation to the program that protects it. Maybe there will be a family whose holiday is not ruined by a burglary because of our gift.

Thank you for your work with the program!

- The Crenshaws, Mitchell, Amy & Madeleine

THE FOREST HILLS SECURITY PROGRAM RESIDENT FUNDED OFF-DUTY DALLAS POLICE PATROL

PLEDGE TO SAFETY — \$60 Per Quarter

FIRST QUARTER (January, February, March) SECOND QUARTER (April, May, June) THIRD QUARTER (July, August, September) FOURTH QUARTER (October, November, December) If you prefer, you may pay in advance \$120 \$180 or \$240 for 2, 3 or 4 quarters.

Please send or have your bank arrange an automatic payment to: Forest Hills Security Program, 8432 San Fernando Way, Dallas, TX 75218.

Your pledge is essential to the maintenance and continuation of this successful program. Thank you for supporting the Forest Hills Security Program!

Compliments, Concerns or Payment Inquiry: Judy Whalen 214-324-9894 fhspenp@aol.com

Please include this information with your payment:

Name

Address ____

Telephone ____

Email

FHNA Beautification Committee Gets a New Face . . . Literally



Some of you have already been graced by the presence of Camilla Mitchell when she spoke at FHNA's last general meeting. Many of those who know her personally and have worked along side of her enjoy her enthusiasm and conscientiousness when it comes to projects in her path.

She was recently seated as the Beautification and Restoration Chair of FHNA Board replacing outgoing Chair, Judi Boyles. We owe Judi a debt of gratitude for her work involving median maintenance, bench implementation and the Adopt-A-Median program.

Camilla will continue developing and enhancing the maintenance efforts started in 1992, led by Bob Crowell and other beautification members at the time.

Camilla Mitchell

The focus for 2008 will be to promote neighborhood beautification and restoration projects, especially new trees.

Neighbor gets her wish from Santa!

Santa brought Kathleen Blaydes the dog of her dreams. A sweet, black westie. Her name is



Sadie and she's pictured here in the backyard with Rosie (the other family dog) and Kathleen. Woof! Welcome to the n e i g h b o r h o o d from all of Forest Hills pets and pet lovers!!

Yard of the Month

Lottie and Bob Minick at 8331 San Cristobal Dr. are Yard of the Month winners for January. Be sure and check out the beautiful garden sculptures created by Lottie and take special note of the fabulous new sidewalk created and installed by Lottie. Congratulations!



Girl Scouts are in Forest Hills!

Μv name is Julianna Infanzon and I am a Girl Scout. We recently started a junior troop for Forest Hills and we do service activities. We are known as Troop 8787. I want to give a shout out to my Troop 8787 sisters Baylee, Alexis, Dede, Lollie, India, Danielle, Martha, and Gena!!



I would like to let Forest Hills know about our Bronze Award project that we are currently working on. Our troop's goal is to help out our neighborhood. In October we worked at the Forest Hills Fall Festival by painting faces and selling "Boo Goo" to raise money for lost pet rescue. We also helped collect clothes this past November at the clothing drive for Jonathan's Place. This January we are selling cookies for the first time.

Watch out for troop 8787 as we grow and do great things in Forest Hills!





PAWS PAGE



Pet Photo of the Month



Hi, my name is C.J. (short for Camilla and John). I am about one and a half years old and not sure who my parents were. I was found orphaned in a field and was picked up and brought to the

Dallas Animal Shelter. The animal shelter was very scary because of all the big dogs barking. I was very small, but so handsome that I was adopted along with my shelter brother Max. We are so lucky that our human parents chose to adopt us before we were sent to cat heaven!!!

We love living in Forest Hills and we want lots of human parents to please go and adopt our fellow cellmates we left behind !

Warm and cozy, C.J.

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GET IN ON THE ACTION!

Upcoming Pet Events:

January 27th — The Paws Cause benefiting the SPCA Animal Wellness Center 7 p.m.-10 p.m. at Sambuca in Dallas. Honorary chairs Madeleine and T. Boone Pickens. For information call 214-526-2901 or visit <u>www.spca.org</u>.

February 23rd — Strut Your Mutt, 3K Fun Run and Walk 8am — 1pm at the Museum of Nature and Science in Fair Park, corner of Grand Avenue and 2nd Street. Supports the SPCA of Texas. (www.spca.org/strutyourmutt)

Free Help Finding your lost pet!! <u>www.find-a-pet.org</u>

Successful Leadership grows FH Animal Alert! Program

If you hadn't noticed, there were many loose, stray, neglected and lost pets wandering our streets in Forest Hills.

The start-up of Animal Alert! headed by Andie Comini, Susan Wells, Pat Cage and Betty Guerra ensured we addressed this growing problem. This past year we have successfully found homes for many strays in our streets. From cats, dogs, and even birds, we found homes or safe shelters to ensure better futures for these pets.

The leadership of the Animal Alert! Program takes pet care seriously. The team is a seriousminded group of pet enthusiasts not to mention, pet lovers each one of them. Their mantra is built on the notion that a community must take responsibility for the care of it's own. The city of Dallas is overwhelmed and cannot possibly address all pet care issues.

As an affiliate member of the FHNA we have received many accolades on behalf of this group of dedicated neighbors. This year, 2008, promises more of the same success in developing new programs concerning pet care and responsibility.



CONTACTS FOR THE FOREST HILLS ANIMAL ALERT! PROGRAM	
To report a Lost or Found Animal	. Betty Guerra @ (214) 621-7086
	. Pat Cage @ (214) 460-1269
Animal Control	. Call 311

Power Line Clearance Issues in Alleyways

McKinney & TXU Power Line Clearance

Purpose: At the request of Dallas Mayor, Laura Miller and McKinney Mayor, Bill Whitfield, please consider the following input regarding power line clearance issues.

Executive summary: Due to the recent concerns regarding the trimming of trees by TXU contractors, numerous issues can be considered that offer viable solutions which may assist in addressing these issues. If the city is willing to work to put lines underground in the future, prevent the planting of shade trees in or near a power line easement, adjusting existing codes and procedures as may be required and working with property owners/TXU on "refusals" to prune, TXU has fewer power outages which saves a great deal in financial penalties. By not allowing shade trees under or too close to power lines, TXU will save a great deal in the cost to maintain line clearance. These changes should more than make up for any financial losses associated with reduction of the required amount of line clearance from the current 10 feet to a lower amount (6-8 feet) and the increase in corresponding frequency of the trimming (3-4 years instead of the current 4-5 years). Reducing the required line clearance will decrease the amount of damage to trees in or near the wires because it is done more often and it appears less offensive to a property owner as well as the public in general. If TXU will also work to improve the quality of line clearance services provided, a more positive public opinion would be generated.

TXU general issues:

- A state tariff authorizes TXU to provide line clearance but does not dictate an amount of clearance that is required.
- Due to deregulation, some are using other electricity providers but TXU Energy Delivery is still responsible for line clearance.
- TXU is penalized on any power outages that occur. If necessary, data could be acquired that would quantify the number of outages in an area and the costs associated that include emergency crews to remediate the damage.
- Property owner "refusals" to allow trimming will create problems down the road and eventually, larger limbs will need to be removed. Also, power outages will eventually occur.
- The average re-growth of trees after trimming is 18 inches per year. Ten feet of clearance requires a 4-5 year trimming cycle. Many years ago, the line clearance provided in Dallas was around 5 feet, which required a trimming cycle of every 3-3.5 years. Clearance requirements vary according to each city across the state.
- Must consider regulating the quality of contractors selected to avoid the spread of disease and encourage proper cuts on all trees. Time any trimming to avoid the spring months, if possible. Consider an assurance that a certified arborist is available during clearance operations as well as crews with adequate communication skills.
- Consider providing better notification of the public and officials, before standard trimming takes place. This
 could include a public notice 60 days in advance.

McKinney general issues:

- · Consider utilizing city officials to work with TXU on refusals to prune
- Work to put power lines underground. Older sections of town may require an analysis of the feasibility and costs associated. New developments should require underground lines. Consider creating a tax utility district to fund the cost of putting the lines underground.
- Review the city codes and any landscape/tree ordinance to prevent the future planting of trees under the power lines and for changes required to comply with any future agreement or franchise changes.
- TXU should be allowed to prune slightly beyond the required clearance, when there is a need to provide a proper cut on the tree.
- The city arborist (or forester?) can watch for trees that could fail structurally and fall into the power lines. Upon recognition, work with the property owner and TXU officials or contractors to resolve the issue.
- The city arborist (forester) could work towards the removal of fast growing shade trees and invasive non native plants that are in (or near) power line easements as well as to work to educate the public regarding power lines and trees/plants.
- Consider asking TXU to review future landscape plans that are in or adjoining TXU easements, before city approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Houser,

Dallas Urban Forest Advisory Committee Chair, Consulting Arborist



FEBRUARY GARDEN CLUB MEETING

The meeting in February will be at the home of

Jane Hulsey 8422 Santa Clara at 10AM

Please join us. Call Barb Michaels for information on membership — 214-327-3817. You don't have to be a gardener to join membership is open to everyone.



Barb Michaels



Lotti Minick

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:



Judi Boyles

Dorinda Breeland

Dear Editor:

We have one question. We are about to modify our lot to expand our home and the square footage. To do this, we will have to cut down some trees in our path. We do not want to do this, but we have to accommodate the new add-on structure.

If we do cut trees, are we in violation of any FHNA ordinance or City Ordinance?

Editor's response:

Neoma Twining Newsletter Editor No and no. Our progress in preserving trees has been admirable. We as an association however, do not have the authority to keep any homeowner from cutting down trees. Our hope is that when homeowners and builders decide to build or expand they consult an arborist. The reason for this? One homeowner cutting down trees can affect the life of trees on the lot next to theirs. The city has an ordinance but usually relies on the builder or architect involved to abide by the city's codes. There should be no problems. We appreciate your question.



Sanger Elementary News

The ninth annual Winter Art Fair was a huge success! Sabrina Jones said it exceeded their expectations and they are looking forward to next year. In sports, the Lady Stallions won third place in zone 1 girls basketball; the trophy is proudly on display in the school office. The first school art contest received a nice

amount of entries and if you were fortunate enough to attend the Winter Art Fair you might have seen them displayed outside the gymnasium. Prize money was awarded for 1st thru 3rd place and all entrants received a certificate for participating. The art entries were based on musical pieces the students have been learning about. Musical choices included works such as Julius Fucik's "Entry of the Gladiators" for Kinder thru 2nd grade and Rachmaninoff's "Prelude in C# Minor" for 3rd through 5th grade.

Calling all brown or green thumbs! Did you know that Sanger has a school garden? It is in need of some TLC and reconditioning. Anyone interested in lending a hand may contact Mary Ehrenberger (214) 327-7994 to volunteer time, plants and leftover bricks/stones.



More info will be available in the next newsletter. Please remember, many hands make light work.



LET'S TALK REAL ESTATE

with

Jenny Capritta

THE ELEMENTS OF LOCATION

When you are in the market for a home, how should you evaluate the properties that appeal to you? There is an old clické about the three most important factors of a piece of property-location, location and location.

Some neighborhoods have a certain distinction that attracts buyers, but there are other factors to take into account. A house in a good location may have a few points subtracted if it is located on a busy street. There are buyers who would like to be close to schools, shopping, and churches, but don't want to live across the street from these facilities. You may want an easy commute to your job, but would not consider a location close to the "on" ramp of the interstate. A location close to an airport would be convenient if you are a commercial pilot, but might make it difficult to sell even the most wonderful house.

As you balance all of the factors, remember that a location liability that gets you a great house at a reasonable price will probably require you to pass a similar savings on to future buyers.

Whether you are buying or selling a home, Jenny takes the time to ensure you have the pertinent information you need to make a sound decision. So, before your next move, turn to the professional with the passion, energy and drive to make a difference. Serving the area since 1987, Jenny Knows White Rock Lake and can help you make your next move the best yet.

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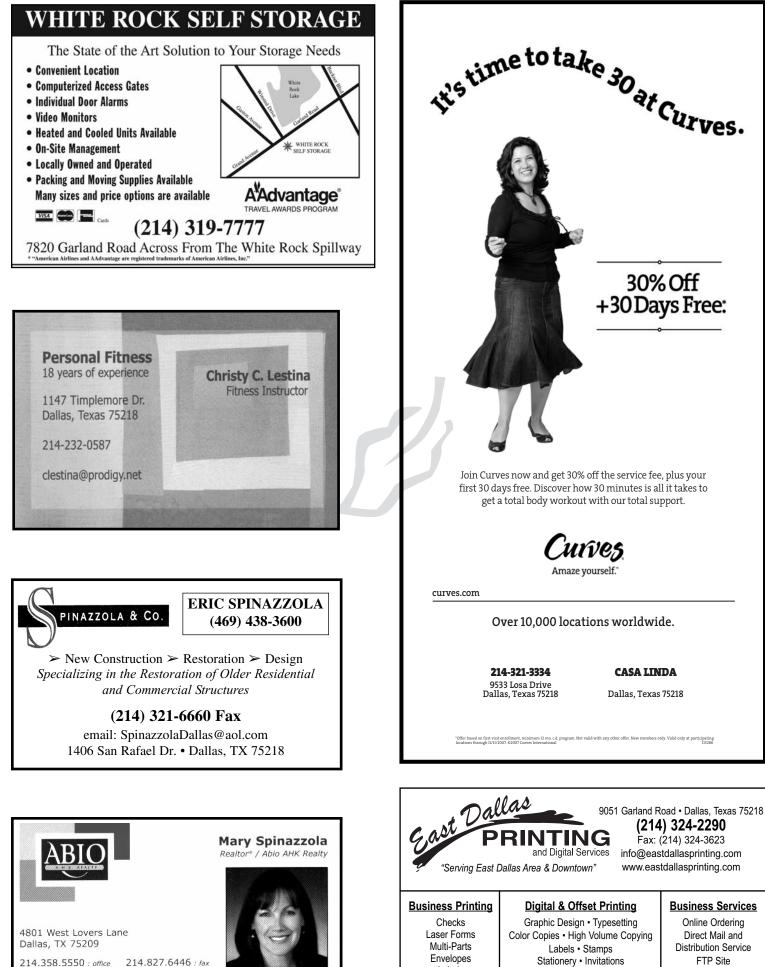
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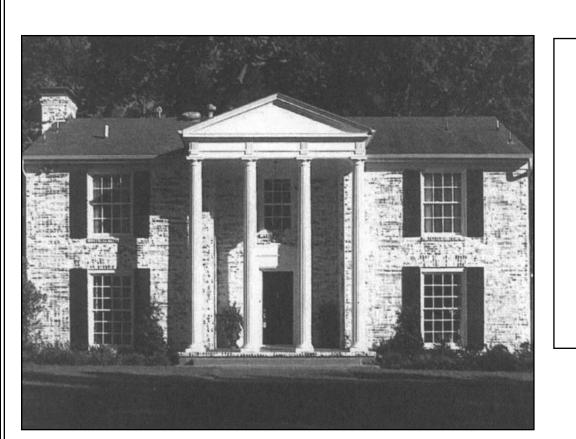
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