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Newsletter Editor/Communications: Neoma Twining

## The Reporter

**AUGUST 2007 ISSUE** 

#### **COPS GOT HIM!!!**

At 7:30 pm, Monday, August 6th, Linda Rothstein and Andy Mayer (of 8100 block of San Benito) were just doing what most of us do. Yard chores. Suddenly, a car, topping speeds of 70 mph flew down the 8100 block of San Benito Way. In hot pursuit behind the vehicle, sirens blaring, was our own *Man in Blue*, Sgt. Rod Dillon.

Sgt. Dillon was working his Forest Hills ENP (Expanded Neighborhood Program) off duty job in a marked Dallas Police car. Officer Dillon stopped the suspect because he noticed the license plates displayed were cancelled plates. The suspect initially reached for identification then accelerated and sped off reaching a speed of over 70 mph in a 30 mph zone down San Benito. He continued, running 3 stop signs before crashing into two trees at the intersection of San Rafael and San Benito. The impact severely damaged the suspect's car. The suspect then jumped out of the car and ran through several yards only to be apprehended in the 1800 block of Highland Rd.





The suspect told officers he ran because he did not have a driver's license or insurance and he was driving a car he stole from his parents. The suspect is a 33-year old, white male with no priors. He was charged with evading arrest, state registration violation, no driver's license, no insurance and was issued traffic tickets for running 3 stop signs, and speeding.

Evidence of your FHSP dollars at work. Thank you Sgt. Dillon and the Dallas Police Officers attending.

#### BUILDERS HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR TREES



"Personally, I would like to see the City become more proactive in protecting our urban forests. There needs to be strong incentives to replace trees so our neighborhoods don't become denuded." — John Davis - FH resident

The issue of tree preservation is not just a FH issue. Prominent neighborhoods such as Highland Park have programs in place to prevent tree loss due to development. The issue is on the city's radar and in our own FH, many flags have been raised shedding light on this sensitive subject. It's no secret the city is prodevelopment and what that means is many neighborhood associations must be pro-active in protecting what is theirs. Recently Channel 8 television reported on a "slaughter" of trees on a construction site on Forest Hills Blvd. The Dallas Morning News then provided broader coverage of just how big this issue is.

What's at stake for most neighborhoods is the integrity of their community. Trees are hugely beneficial for many reasons, both economical and ecologically. FH has recently embarked on a campaign called "Trees are Good." The purpose of the campaign is to first educate the neighborhood about the benefits of trees. The second phase will implement City affiliated programs designed to educate builders. The goal is create a partnership between the builders, the city and the neighborhood association. The mission . . . protect as many trees as possible. In the end, the program will aggressively monitor builders and hold them accountable under city guidelines. In some cases, forcing builders to pay into a reforestation program to replace trees cut down due to home construction.

We need more volunteers, input and participation in this campaign. If you are interested, please email John Mitchell — <u>imitchell@C3site.com</u>.



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35%

#### FH BOARD STILL DISAPPOINTED

While celebrating monies coming in, the FH board is still faced with a problem no one seems to be able to solve. Why aren't more neighbors buying into the program? Why aren't "all" paying their dues?

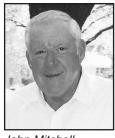
The FH monthly board meeting for August was held on Monday, August 12th at the home of Judy Whalen, President of FHSP. Nearly every board member was present to showing their commitment to FH's progress. Many agreed on the fact much progress has been made thanks to the creation of several internal organizations. FHSP is thriving under the direction of Judy Whalen. FH Animal Alert!, one of FH's newest programs is labeled as outstanding by outsiders falls under the direction of Susan Wells and Pat Cage. The new website is up and running and advertisers are calling without any solicitation from us. Beautification received numerous kudos for the implementation of the median benches making the neighborhood feel more welcoming. And, the medians were watered and mowed on time this year giving a more impressive look to visitors in our neighborhood. Planning and Zoning headed by John Mitchell and Cherryl Peterman has been highly responsive to neighbors questions and concerns. And for the first time in a long time, we have had consistent, quality leadership. Not to mention, fiscal accountability under the care of Gina Bender.

So . . . what's the deal? What is it going to take? The board is working on a way to track with precision, those who have paid into the FHNA and those who have not. This new system could remedy the problem by telling residents with absolute certainty whether they are on track and on time with their contribution.

As far as new business, the FH board is moving forward to support the Tree Preservation Movement, and create pockets of fund raising to keep our existing programs intact.

— by Neoma Twining

#### The Neighbors Column



John Mitchell

The Neighbors Column is new way for Forest Hills neighbors to communicate with each other and effectively let their opinions and feeling about issues confronting our community be heard.

Communications is critical in every facet of our lives. This Newsletter is published monthly to inform all of the Homeowners in Forest Hills what is going on in our community.

You are invited to write about an issue dealing with Forest Hills and have it published for all to read. I get to go first!!

The issue of great concern to me is the low percentage of Homeowners who do not pay their Annual FH dues nor contribute to the Forest Hills' Security Program (FHSP).

We are all confronted with countless requests for contributions and we have to prioritize in which organization do we give money; Church, School, Charities, Political Campaigns, Community Groups etc.

Forest Hills, where we all live and enjoy our families and friends, needs to become one of your priorities for contributing money. Many Communities like Forest Hills have covenants that require that you pay a fixed monthly or annual amount for the benefits you receive.

We all need to realize the importance of contributing \$25 per adult household (annual) and \$60 (quarterly) for our Security Program. This represents a small sum of money for the benefits we derive as homeowners.

The criminal acts that are avoided through the Patrols of our Forest Hills Security Program are worth every bit of the \$290 you will write a check for annually. (\$50 + \$240= \$290). Of course you can contribute more as many have done.

We need to become a 100% involved community if we are going to continue receiving the many benefits provided by the Forest Hills Association . . . your neighbors and mine.

John Mitchell <u>jmitchell@C3site.com</u>

#### Saga of Two Black Dogs

They roamed the neighborhood some say for 6 long weeks, looking for a place to light. One gracious neighbor named Jeane Dooley began feeding them once she realized they needed care. To the frustration of some, the 2 black dogs were constantly on the move. Their color alone made them intimidating and they were unapproachable to which some meant they must be "mean" dogs. You never know. And, the animal experts tell you not to just reach for a dog . . . allow the dog to smell your hand. Either way, you are always at risk if you don't know the dog.

One rumor that circulated with vigor was that a construction truck brought the dogs into FH to dump them. A witness reported seeing this. From that moment on, the 2 homeless black dogs were ours. Some think this an unfortunate burden for FH. But to FH pet advocates and more importantly, FH dog lovers this was a chance to be heroic. And, because of the compassion and persistence of one special neighbor, Jeane, the dogs survived peril most stray Dallas dogs face. Certain death.

Animal Alert! was designed for the sole purpose of bringing pets and their care to the forefront. These two blacks dogs proved an interesting test case for the virgin FH program. Good and final news, it worked. However, many things were discovered along the way. Animal Alert! cannot possibly begin housing and caring for each and every stray animal that happens into the hood. But, we can make arrangements, call on our resources and remedy the situation of a stray who can't find it's way home.

The black border collies, a mother and son Jeane called Buddy, were ultimately transported to a border rescue farm outside of Dallas. They are happy and cared for at this time.

Special thanks to Jeane Dooley who showed extraordinary compassion for these lost dogs. And to those who felt threatened by the presence of these two animals, you can find solace in the ability of the FH Animal Alert! program to take proper care of such matters.

### New Program Will Help Dallas Residents Save Water and Money

"New Throne for Your Home" provides vouchers to purchase low-flow toilets

— City of Dallas News Release

The City of Dallas is introducing a "New Throne for Your Home" program to help residents conserve water and save money The program offers vouchers to help homeowners and apartment managers and owners purchase water-saving low-flow toilets.

"Older, high-flow toilets are one of the highest water users in the home, accounting for about 30 percent of water used indoors," said Water Conservation Division Manager Carole Davis. "The low-flow toilets and higherfliciency toilets can save a typical household more than 10,600 gallons per year."

The "New Throne For Your Home" program will provide vouchers worth up to \$90 toward the purchase of water-saving low-flow toilets. Dallas Water Utilities customers could get up to two toilet vouchers if they live in a single-family home. Multifamily residential owners and managers can also apply and should contact the Water Conservation Division to get information on specific program requirements for them.

To qualify for the vouchers, customers whose home was built prior to 1992 may not have received a low-flow toilet from any other City of Dallas program, and must agree to an installation verification visit. For complete guidelines about the program, visit <a href="https://www.savedallaswater.com">www.savedallaswater.com</a> or call (214) 670-3155.

### **NEIGHBOR OF INTEREST, CARLA KERR**

The photos alone are enough to engage anyone. Add to the photos her given Cherokee name, "Carla Red Fox," Ka-la Tsu-la Gi-ga-ge and you got me! Lucky for all of us, she is our neighbor. Just who is Carla Kerr? She has been a FH resident since 1999 when she married Doug Kerr. She was born in Blackwell, Oklahoma. She attended Las Vegas High School in Nevada but married before she graduated. Having worked many jobs, her exposure to so many professions enriched her life immensely. Doug Kerr met Carla at the Good Samaritan Church located on Highland Road.

Carla is an avid reader, quilter and writer. Currently Carla is working on her memoir. The draft manuscript for the first of three parts was selected as one of 20 for consideration in this year's manuscript contest at the Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Writers Conference of the Southwest.

Carla is the founding Queen Mum of the chapter of the Red Hat Society, President of the Oak Hill Book Club, and for several years worked as coordinator of Volunteers for The Love of The Lake.

Carla has a daughter and two sons, seven grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.

Her life is full and happy. We are proud to call her Neighbor! Enjoy these fun photos of Carla.











#### THE SECURITY PROGRAM NEEDS EVERY RESIDENT TO PARTICIPATE

"Why wouldn't we all want to pay for a service (the FH Security Program) that protects our families? I think it is important to do what it takes to make our neighborhood safer. What we pay the officers is a bargain! We live in a very special place and really need our off duty policemen to continue to watch over us." — Josy Collins, Forest Hills Blvd.

"I think the hard part is remembering to write a check every quarter. I have mine set up with the bank to pay automatically — or else I'm sure I

would be one that would forget. I never write checks. I need to do that for the annual FHNA dues too. Don't know why that is so hard. Maybe others have the same problem and could look into setting up something similar with their bank?" — *Alise Platt, San Benito* 

"It's a great comfort to me to enter our neighborhood at any time of the day or evening and see a police car cruising the area. Nine times out of ten they are the off duty officers hired by our security program. Crime occurs at all times and in all places. Our Forest Hills Security Officers do a great job patrolling Forest Hills. We need the entire neighborhood's support, especially during the summer months when, statistically, crime seems to escalate in our neighborhood." — Nancy Cruezot, San Leandro

## DID YOU REMEMBER TO MAKE YOUR THIRD QUARTER (JULY) PLEDGE FOR SAFETY?

We still need a larger percentage of our neighborhood supporting this program, which has proven more than successful in preventing crime, apprehending bad guys and protecting our homes and the Forest Hills residents who live in them. Please join the others who make this happen every quarter.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PART IN A SAFER FOREST HILLS!

Pledges due the beginning of every calendar quarter (January, April, July, October). If you prefer, you may pay \$120, \$180, or \$240 for two, three or four quarters.

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

Compliments, Concerns or Payment Inquiry Judy Whalen 214 324-9894 jwreps@earthlink.net.

Please send or deliver to: **Forest Hills Security Program, 8432 San Fernando Way, Dallas, TX 75218** (include this information with your payment):

Name	
Address	
Telephone	_ Email

















## PAWS

Cut this out & put on the back of the cabinet/refrigerator where you store your pet food!



### CLIP AND SAVE \_ 4





#### Forest Hills Homeowners Association **ANIMAL ALERT!** Contact Information



To report a Lost/Found pet:,	Pat Cage	
,	(214) 460-1269	
To change database info	Susan Wells	
(ie: e-mail, collar, phone)	(214) 324-9082	
City of Dallas	311	
SPCA of Dallas	( 214) 742-7722	
City of Dallas Animal Control(Forney Road)	(214)-564-4056	

For a complete list of Dallas area dog and cat rescue groups or to research local Lost and Found listings please visit the following website:

#### www.spca.org



For all Forest Hills Neighborhood Association news (including pet registration forms) go to: www.foresthillsdallas.org



#### KUDOS THIS MONTH GO OUT TO......

Darla Hodges, Eastside Veterinary Clinic, Operation Kindness, Pat and Paul Colacecchi. Mary Spinazzola (foster care volunteer).

#### No Kill Animal Shelter - East Lake Pet Orphanage

10101 E. Northwest Highway • Dallas, Texas 75238 www.elpo.org • 214-349-ELPO (3576) • elpo@welovepets.net

Mission statement: East Lake Pet Orphanage (ELPO) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the rescue and rehabilitation of unwanted and abandoned pets in order to prevent their eventual euthanasia. Our purpose is to place these animals in stable, loving homes after they are health screened, spayed/neutered, current on vaccinations, and generally in good health.

In cooperation with both public and private like-minded organizations, we are educating the general public on the importance of spaying/neutering and responsible pet ownership through classes, media and public activities.

A Second Chance for Pets

## PAGE



















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#### PET PICTURE OF THE MONTH!

Wadda Mean? Bad Dog!



## Theo T. Bear (pronounced TA-O!)

Proud Parents: Bob and Sharon Quaglia of Forest Hills. Theo has a brother named "Not So Famous Amos" whose picture will surely appear in a later issue! To submit your pet's photo for consideration, e-mail to sbwells0918@sbcglobal.net.

## Do You Have a Feral Cat Problem: A Solution that Works! (submitted by: Andie Comini)

By many accounts we have feral (abandoned) cats in Forest Hills. They are often born in the wild and are afraid of people from lack of human contact. They usually live in colonies near a food source. Unchecked breeding, with females spending most of their lives pregnant or nursing, results in feral cat overpopulation even though half of the kittens die soon after birth.

If you are borrowing a trap from your local animal control agency, you may be interested in finding out about a successful method that is more humane manner than trapping and bringing cats to your animal control agency (which could result in euthanization). This method involves spaying and neutering the cats **and returning them** to their environment overseen by caretakers. This approach is accepted by well-respected institutions including the American Veterinary Medical Association, Texas A&M and Tufts University Veterinary schools, Stanford University, University of Texas at Austin and the SPCA. Treated cats reduce their "wild" behavior usually within 30 days and are typically healthier. **Removing cats does not work**. Typically, this just results in other cats moving into the vacant territory.

For information or assistance on the "trap/neuter/return" method, contact KittiCO Cat Rescue through their website at <a href="www.kittico.org">www.kittico.org</a> or call (214) 826-6903. KittiCo Cat Rescue loans traps, with a refundable deposit, and arranges for spaying/neutering of cats at a reduced cost to you. The cats are also vaccinated for rabies.

### Neighbor Builds Black Pearl Replica

by Linda Ortman

Forest Hills neighbor, Dan Outman, has volunteered for several charitable organizations since moving to Dallas in 1993; however, helping build a Black Pearl replica proved to be quite exciting and rewarding. Dan, along with other volunteers coordinated by his employer, Archon Group, spent several months building a pirate ship playhouse that was on display at NorthPark Mall during the month of August.

Every year, Dallas CASA (Court-Appointed Special Advocates) is the beneficiary of a fundraiser at NorthPark Mall called Parade of Playhouses. Dozens of volunteer playhouse builders from around the Dallas area contribute uniquely designed and built children's playhouses, which are in turn raffled or auctioned during the "back to school" promotion days at the Mall. Last year this event contributed in excess of \$110,000 for the benefit of CASA. To learn more please visit the CASA website at <a href="https://www.dallascasa.org">www.dallascasa.org</a>.

On the morning of July 31st the ship was transported from "dry-dock" in North Dallas and installed in the children's wing at NorthPark. The pirate ship features include: Custom made millwork and sails, wooden construction made to look aged with worm holes and mock deterioration, lighting, extensive maritime details, operational cannon doors and custom made to scale cast iron cannons, deck hatch, galley with table and seating, "Captains quarters" and a hammock.

In the end, nearly 1,000 volunteer hours and thousands of dollars of materials were used to build this incredible ship.

### **Atta Boy Randy!**

FH neighbor Randy Kalis made an all out effort to get the city's attention about the condition of the Sanger Elementary Lawn. He took our advice and called 311. This is the city's magic number if you have a problem. Here is his letter to the city.

Dear Ms. Miller,

Thank you for response to my concern, Alex Sanger Elementary 8410 San Leandro Drive, Dallas, TX 75218.

The school yard is treated like a field . . . it is mowed with a tractor and mower used in a hay field, NO TRIMMING, and tall weeds growing around walls and fences. Code compliance would be at my home in a minute if I left my yard in this condition . . . This is not a one time situation . . . ask the homeowners in our area.

Thank you. Sincerely, Randy Kalis

Response: Mayor Laura Miller emailed him personally to attend to this matter. Here is proof of how the system works. The city is on our side. When we make a concerted and courteous effort to raise a flag . . . they do respond.

— by Neoma Twining

#### ☑ Join in the Forest Hills Association — your Dues!

Forest Hills dues are at the highest level as compared to recent years — Let's resolve 100% as a great show of community support!

Forest Hills Association dues are payable once a year on a calendar basis (independent of your Security Program participation). Dues are paid for every adult member of a Forest Hills home at a minimum of \$25 each, however all amounts are welcome. Contributions are used as follows:

✓ Subsidize this great Community Newsletter

- ✓ Underwrite communication venues <u>www.foresthillsdallas.org</u> and FHSP Phone Tree
- ✓ Underwrite your great neighborhood social events
- ✓ Water and maintain the medians
- ✓ Pay the common electricity expense for irrigation power
- ✓ Support community needs, including White Rock Lake, Alex Sanger and FHSP

Without your participation we could not continue our work and play as a community Association. *Please call me at 214-328-9188 or email* <u>glbender@swbell.net</u> with any questions.

	<u>nei</u> wiin any quesiions				
	ociation 2007 Dues				
Name:					 
Address:					
Email:				_	
<b>Dues Enclosed:</b>	\$25	\$50	\$75	Other	



The Forest Hills Garden Club will have its first meeting of the year at the home of Pat Corrigan 8367 San Fernando Way on Thursday September 6 at 7:30 PM. This will be an organizational meeting to discuss plans for the coming year. Dues for the year are \$25.00. If you are interested in attending and/or joining the club please call Barb Michaels (214-327-3817) or Judi Boyles (214-321-1648).

#### Letter to the Editor:

Dear FH, we are having a problem with the garbage men. They have torn up



our back fence and back gate, sometimes the alley looks like a war zone with all the garbage Cans left in the alley Can we get the city to fix our gate and fence? Prior to a couple of months ago, we had no problems with them.



Neoma Twining

Newsletter Editor

Ms. Gladys Shankles

I personally drove to the alley address listed to see what damage had been done. What I found was alarming. The back fence and gate were badly damaged and no doubt caused by a large car or truck. I personally phoned the City (by dialing 311) to report and discuss the incident.

The city responder \*\*\*\*\* called back to assure me it would be taken care of. Fence and gate repair and no more garbage left behind. We will hold them to their word.

## Sanger News Kindergarten Swim Fest





## Forest Hills Yard of the Month

August Yard of the Month Sharon Shero and Robert Quaglia at 1418 Highland Rd.





Kathy Wall 214-202-0925

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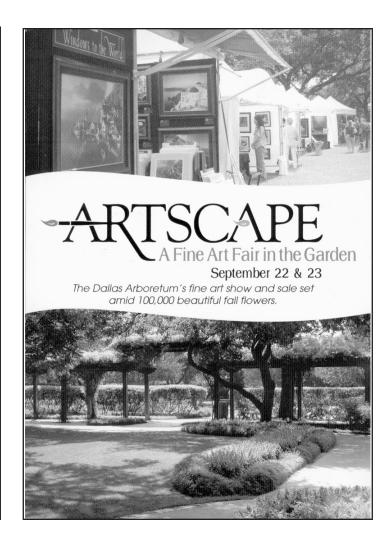
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Our Forest Hills neighbor, Phyllis Infanzon, is starting a junior/cadet level girl scout troop in Forest Hills. The girls signing up right now are 11-12 year old sixth graders who attend a variety of schools. Their goal as a troop is to serve the Forest Hills community either through projects or helping out at events. Any interested girls/parents should contact Phyllis at palominofilly@tx.rr.com or call 214-478-9497.



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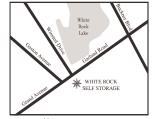
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