

FRIIdays

FERGUSON ROAD INITIATIVE – SERVING FAR EAST DALLAS

Fall 2016



Helping One Another in this issue

FRI Fall Roundup – White Rock Hills
Community Recreation Center Update

Coworking for the Greater Good

Truett Elementary School
Celebrates Rebirth

GCVA's Grass-roots Momentum
is Making a Difference

Our First Community Court in Northeast
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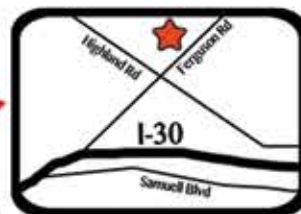
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*The mission of FRI is to transform
 Far East Dallas into a safe, beautiful,
 prosperous and proud community by
 inspiring hope and working together
 to achieve a shared vision.*

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FRIdays

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ON THE COVER

Ferguson Road Initiative, starting in 1998, has
 worked tirelessly for the greater good of Far East
 Dallas. The cover image for this issue is inspired by
 their accomplishments that prove working together for
 the greater good is an attainable goal, not a pie-in-
 the-sky flight of fancy.

FRI Fall Roundup

White Rock Hills Community Recreation Center Update



by Vikki J. Martin, President, FRI

White Rock Hills Community Recreation Center (CENTER) – History

– In 1998, the Dallas Park and Recreation Department (DPARD) identified a recreation gap radiating three miles from the epicenter of our community. In the 2003 and 2006 bond elections, DPARD

and council members from Districts 7 and 9 secured nearly \$15 million to purchase land and complete design and construction plans for a library and recreation center. The library is complete and is a run away success!

Ferguson Road Initiative (FRI) and DPARD are taking bold steps together to fund the design and construction of the White Rock Hills Community Recreation Center (CENTER). The CENTER will be near the intersection of Highland and Ferguson Roads at 2229 Highland Road. In December 2015, after a yearlong study, the CENTER Feasibility Study/Master Plan was approved by the DPARD.

This CENTER will be a unique destination for recreation, wellness, environmental and technology programs and serve as an anchor for a mixed-income retail and housing development. The CENTER will serve all people in our community, but especially, those among our two fastest-growing demographics, at-risk children/youth and seniors. This amenity will connect to the Trinity Forest Spine Trail extension and link our communities to the Katy, White Rock and Santa Fe trails.

Interim “Meanwhile” Use – An Urban Farm – While we are raising the money for the CENTER, the first step in establishing the project will be to break ground on an urban farm by 2017. FRI is working with DPARD to forge a partnership with a nonprofit urban farm that will create an “agrihood,” where the farm provides fresh farm-to-table produce in a cooperative community environment. FRI is helping facilitate focus groups for this nonprofit farm so it can produce food on this three plus acre site. Our intent is for the urban farm to become a permanent component of the CENTER. We love that it will immediately address the community’s need for sustainable, affordable and fresh produce. The City of Dallas has tentatively agreed to make this their second urban farm pilot project and the first to be located on city parkland. This is a game changer for DPARD, as well as for our community. Stay tuned for more information as this partnership develops.

CENTER Funding – Strategy – The proposed method of fundraising will be a public/private partnership that will combine city bond funds and a capital campaign undertaken by the Ferguson Road Initiative. The total cost of this 35,000 square-foot CENTER will be \$22 million and will be the keystone of a \$35 million capital improvement project. The Campaign Cabinet, a group in alliance with FRI, will be responsible for fundraising.



White Rock Hills Community Recreation Center Project Timeline

2016

Phase 1: Feasibility to Funding

- Feasibility study approved
- Commitment for \$5M on bond
- Identify a fundraising consultant
- Secure fundraising grant
- Secure program and management partners
- Approve urban farm
- Develop \$35M capital campaign
- Develop marketing plan and website

2017

Phase 2: Partners & Programs

- Develop financial pro forma
- Urban farm groundbreaking
- Partnerships and MOU's
- Secure grant to fund professional services for the CENTER
- Mobilize community support for bond
- Grounding for urban farm
- Design/construction documents
- Secure grants and contributions

2018

Phase 3: Design & Construction

- Acquire building contractor
- Host groundbreaking for facility construction
- Finalize partners and programs
- Operational management plan
- Identify and seek naming sponsors
- Secure grants and contributions

2019

Phase 4: Moving In

- Secure naming sponsors
- Finish out facility interior
- Design project(s) for next phase
- Execute operating contracts
- Groundbreaking with program partners
- Review and refine fundraising progress

Experts have identified several gaps in services for Far East Dallas:

- **Food Desert:** Affordable fresh produce is not easily available to many of our residents. (Source: USDA)
- **Medical Desert** – Access to affordable healthcare is difficult due to low income levels of many residents and lack of access to private care medical resources. (Source: Horizons, Dallas County Hospital Needs Assessment, 2015)
- **Recreation Desert** – Recreation opportunities for youth, families and seniors are insufficient. From the proposed CENTER location, it is an hour walk to the closest recreation center. (Source: DPARD, City of Dallas)

By addressing these three key gaps, the CENTER will provide programs that will greatly improve the quality of life for ALL of our constituents. Our research, as reported in the Master Plan shows, that:

- The CENTER would serve 91,256 residents.
- There are approximately 23,000 children in the FRI service area – 7,000 children under 5 years old, and 16,000 between 5-19 years old.
- Children and youth comprise 25 percent of the population. 93 percent of the students in our 10 public schools are economically disadvantaged and qualify for a free/reduced lunch program.
- 2014 ethnicity is 30 percent white, 20 percent black, 46 percent latino and 4 percent other.
- There are 36,542 households.
- 45 percent of homes are owned, 43 percent are rentals and 12 percent are vacant.
- The median age is 32.3 years.
- The median household income is \$40,160.

With the help of Councilmembers Mark Clayton (District 9) and Tiffinni Young (District 7), their Park Board appointees, Becky Rader (District 9) and Sean Johnson (District 7), Max Wells (Park Board President), and Willis Winters (Park Director), FRI was able to obtain a commitment that will place \$5 million for the CENTER on the next Bond Program if FRI can raise an additional \$5 million. We sincerely thank our elected and appointed officials for their ardent support in brokering this agreement to launch our CENTER as early as 2020!

CENTER – Next Steps – During 2016, FRI will prepare a capital campaign to raise \$5 million in matching funds for our CENTER.

2020

Phase 5 – Moving On

- Ribbon cutting ceremonies
- Prepare for next phase of facility
- Completed facilities
- Expansion projects defined and launched
- Community gala celebrating the CENTER's success

FRI Community Connection Town Hall Meeting

Monday, September 19

6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

White Rock Church of Christ Fellowship Hall
9220 Ferguson Road

Come meet your friends, neighbors and political officials. Hear various community reports of interest and updates on the status of the White Rock Hills Community Recreation Center and urban farm. Meet our newest neighbor, Uplift Education. Learn about how you can join FRI. Come and watch our new video!



Rise to the Challenge
Give for GOOD
FERGUSON ROAD INITIATIVE

help us meet our goal of \$10,000
NORTH TEXAS GIVING DAY.ORG
SEPTEMBER 22, 2016

McDonald's, FRI Supporters Offer \$10,000 Challenge to the Community!

This marks the 8th year the Ferguson Road Initiative (FRI) will participate in North Texas Giving Day (NTGD). This is an annual online giving event that is dedicated to raising money for nonprofits and is sponsored by the Communities Foundation of Texas. This year's campaign slogan is "Give for Good."

Over the summer, our friends at McDonald's (Larry and Sue Ingram and David Floyd) gave FRI a \$5,000 gift. We raised additional funds from Access Self Storage, Blair Pogue, Casa Pacifica Apartments, Plack Carr, Presidium Group, Residential Reservices and TMA Inc. for a NTGD Challenge Grant of \$10,000!

Our friends are challenging the FRI community to match their \$10,000 gift on September 22. This Challenge Grant gift allows donors to multiply the impact of their gift and help FRI broaden our giving base.

Stop by FRI's donation station for refreshments from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the McDonald's on 8117 E. R.L. Thornton Freeway (Jim Miller and I-30). FRI supporters like Dallas Cowboy, Mel Renfro, stop by from 5 to 7 p.m. to sign autographs for anyone making a contribution to FRI. Renfro will also have signed copies of his biography for sale. It will be a fun and exciting day for FRI to raise gifts for the good work we do in Far East Dallas. Please join us at McDonald's as we celebrate FRI!

Remember, your credit card gift to FRI on NTGD will go directly to us so that we can continue to provide visionary leadership, facilitate community connection and communication, and advocate for Far East Dallas.

"FRI builds community! We appreciate partnering with organizations like the Ferguson Road Initiative because they have created a model program that can help average citizens learn to work together to solve their own neighborhood problems. Since 1998, our store has seen tremendous improvements throughout Far East Dallas. FRI has brought the area together under one umbrella, making great strides in building our community. That's why I offered a Challenge Grant gift to FRI so they can increase their impact." – Larry Ingram, McDonald's, SLI Enterprises, Inc.

NORTH TEXAS GIVING DAY.ORG
SEPTEMBER 22, 2016
6am–midnight

5 EASY STEPS TO DONATE:

1. Wake up on September 22nd
2. Log on to your computer between 6 am and Midnight
3. Go to NorthTexasGivingDay.org and search for Ferguson Road Initiative
4. Make a donation

Or scan this code on 9/22/2016 to go directly to FRI's giving portal.



Re-Building Brotherhood in the Neighborhood



by Paul E. Maynard

Did you ever have an idea that grew from a simple suggestion? Just ask Linda Calvert. She's lived that process firsthand.

About 10 years ago, the Little Forest Hills resident heard about a neighbor who was facing some challenges maintaining her home. Linda asked some of her neighbors if they would like to help this physically challenged lady with some simple home repairs.

"It was really something to watch people step up and help," Linda told me recently. "We were helping someone with no other means of acquiring help and having fun together at the same time."

This effort grew into the Little Forest Hills Neighborhood Association's (LFHNA) Fix It Folks committee. Aimed at ensuring safe, habitable homes for those in the neighborhood who are needy, elderly, ill, physically or fiscally challenged; the circle of five to ten volunteers has a small budget allocation each year from the LFHNA that has grown to make a difference.

"We support the Fix It Folks committee's efforts," LFHNA Co-President Vail Fassett added. "Their work is the embodiment of the idea that Little Forest Hills is large enough to meet your needs, yet small enough to meet your neighbors."

The committee has done everything from rehang doors to building wheelchair ramps. Their basic rule of thumb is to make sure a resident in need is safe and not at risk in their home. Candidates are referred to Linda and her team by word of mouth. The stipend from the LFHNA covers most materials, and the volunteers provide the labor. Eligibility is carefully screened.

"If we have enough volunteers, we break out into teams, sometimes one specializing in construction and others as painters and detailers," Linda said.



This wheelchair ramp is one of several LFHNA Fix It Folks have built for neighbors in need. Left to Right, Vail Fassett, a visiting neighbor, Marilyn Rynerson, Jennifer Pell, Mark Davis, Jim Folger

With many years as a recruiter and organizer, Linda is a natural project manager. Linda also took an earlier neighborhood experience with a man losing his home to a fire and organized the volunteer efforts into the Fix It Folks committee in action today.

The group takes on four to ten projects each year, mostly in the winter. They range from fixing door locks to tightening hinges and making sure heat is working. The volunteers handle smaller projects; bigger projects may require hiring a professional. Linda takes the requests, and then she and one of her volunteers go to the site and scope the potential project. A plan is put together and a date set to perform the work.

"This is a very satisfying way to help people," Linda said. "Watching their faces as we walk away from a finished job is quite the reward."

For more information on the LFHNA Fix It Folks program, contact Linda Calvert at [214-327-5508](tel:214-327-5508).



Left to right Mark Davis and Pam Proctor prep and paint a needy neighbor's home

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Coworking for the Greater Good



by Remington Kane Pierce

White Rock United Methodist Church (WRUMC) has found a new approach to revitalizing a faith community by partnering with The Mix Coworking & Creative Space (The Mix), owned and operated by the Missional Wisdom Foundation. The Mix collaborates with WRUMC

and helps the church stay relevant within a changing community by providing a space for non-profit community partnerships.

Daryn DeZengotita, the catalyst of the project, says

"The Mix offers free or low-cost space for community gatherings, and programming that is educational, serves the neighborhood or is just fun!"
"In addition, we are becoming a networking hub for those who want to get involved with the arts, urban farming, parenting and more."

The partnership has a revenue sharing agreement and works together by utilizing the basement space and connecting different organizations and people in the community. This joint effort incubates jobs by connecting members and small businesses in the community to people and resources which help move their project forward.

Pastor Mitchell Boone and Neil Moseley, director of community engagement, have a model for a new, inventive use of the church. Allowing organizations to use their space to make an impact in Far



The Mix meeting space, on the lower level of WRUMC

East Dallas. By making it easy for the community to participate in local non-profit work, the church has boosted the number of people who enter their doors. The Mix has enabled the church to renovate while many other near by churches struggle to stay open.

The partnerships of non-profits and the The Mix are also creating jobs in the community by learning members' skill sets and pairing them with compatible local business and non-profits.

"The next big goal is to open the commercial kitchen and begin to welcome members who are engaged in the culinary arts. Beyond that, just growing and maintaining our membership," says DeZengotita

If your organization or independent business is interested in partnering with The Mix Coworking & Creative Space, contact Daryn DeZengotita at daryn@themixcoworking.com.



Mitchell Boone and Neil Moseley



Amy King Nested Strategy gives Jet Digital's Chad Armstrong a LinkedIn profile audit at Social Media & Pancakes. in The Mix



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Behold the Beauty of Clean



by Paul E. Maynard

It's amazing what picking up a little trash can do – like bonding neighbors together. That's what Vikki J. Martin, coordinator of Ferguson Road Initiative's (FRI) Operation Beautification group, has discovered after nearly 20 years of working together each spring and fall.

"Beautification is more than picking up trash," Vikki told us recently. "While trash has a tremendous impact, the act of cleaning up your surroundings changes attitudes. Our mission is to have a more beautiful neighborhood."

The program is a project of the City of Dallas, Planning & Urban Design Department (PUDD). The coordinator designates a staging area and targets specific areas of need in our Far East Dallas community. The City picks up and disposes the collected trash.

The spring cleanup drew 119 volunteers from five apartment complexes, including Heroes House and Primrose at Highlands Meadows; seven businesses and nonprofit organizations, including Access Storage, Resource One Credit Union, Young Chevrolet and Grifols; and nine schools, including Hockaday, Episcopal School of Dallas, Lakehill Preparatory School of Dallas and Uplift Education; and eight neighborhoods, including Casa Linda Forest, Claremont Addition, Estates at Forest Hills and five other homeowner associations.

Other areas of Far East Dallas are encouraged to plan their own clean up on November 12, 2016. Download the Community Cleanup Checklist by scanning this QR code, or call Joe Yanez at 214-671-8873.



ADMISSION PREVIEWS

Kindergarten Previews

October 26, 2016
December 6, 2016
9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Lower School Preview

November 10, 2016
9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Middle School Preview

November 2, 2016
9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Upper School Preview

December 1, 2016
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Freshman Visit Day

February 3, 2017
8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

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GCVA's Grass-roots Momentum is Making a Difference



By Mike Nurre

After several years of collaboration with community stakeholders and city officials, the Greater Casa View Alliance is pleased to announce that the Greater Casa View Area Plan has been green-lighted by the Dallas City Plan Commission (CPC) and is slated to go before the full City Council for approval. This area plan will serve as a roadmap for redevelopment as both the City of Dallas and private businesses invest in the infrastructure, services and amenities that are important to the future of Greater Casa View.

With the help of District 9 City Councilman Mark Clayton, plans are already underway to calm traffic and add green space on Gus Thomasson Road near the Casa View Shopping Center – and it's the first of many improvements we anticipate for the area.

Not only is the area plan itself a powerful instrument for change – but the process of engaging the community and working closely with city officials was, perhaps, the most valuable step of all. As members of the Dallas Plan Commission pointed out following their stamp

GCVA is thankful for the officers who risk their lives each day to keep us safe

of approval, no one is better equipped to decide what's best for a community than the community itself. Many members went on record to praise the plan, which Chair Gloria Tarpley referred to as “a terrific example of grass roots coming together, and a textbook example of what an area plan should be.”

Cliff May Home Tour October 15 – Greater

Casa View Alliance is pleased to be the beneficiary of the coming Cliff May Home Tour hosted by Nathan Grace Realtors. California architect Cliff May was a pioneer in making unique homes affordable for the middle class during the post-World War II building boom. These houses feature glass windows and doors that create a spacious and open atmosphere, patios provide outdoor areas for more living space. Casa View is the home to the greatest number of Cliff May-designed houses in Dallas.

On Saturday, October 15, the public will be treated to the rare opportunity to tour a selection of these iconic mid-century homes situated in the heart of Casa View. Follow the home tour on Facebook – search “Cliff May Home Tour” or contact Mindy Oglesby-Niehaus at Mindy@Nathan-Grace.com for more information.



Design concepts for the Gus Thomasson/Ferguson Road street improvement plan with an anticipated 2017 groundbreaking

Casa View Markets – Casa View now has two monthly markets from DFW Marketplace. Casa View market is held on the second Saturday of the month from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Ridge Pointe Fellowship, 11440 Ferguson Road. St. Pius X market is on the first Saturday of the month at St. Pius X Catholic Church, 3030 Gus Thomasson Road. Local vendors offer fresh foods and handmade goods at each location, April through October.

The Greater Casa View Alliance is an assemblage of leaders who have been consistently serving in their neighborhood associations or crime watches that are committed to the broader betterment of the Greater Casa View area. This group serves as a bridge for all neighborhoods to create a single voice for the community.

To learn more, see www.gretercasaview.org.



Home Cooking Made Fresh

Break out of the chain-food routine and sit down to a meal of bona fide, retro-tasty comfort food. Circle Grill's Southern classic menu – meatloaf, chicken-fried steak, chili cheese enchiladas, fried chicken and more – satisfies deep down. All served with fresh vegetables. Regular diners claim “they have the best breakfast in town.”

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Truett Elementary School Celebrates Rebirth



by Carol Ann Ravert

If you have passed by the intersection of Peavy and Inadale recently, you have probably noticed a transformation. The area around Ferguson Park is being revived, and an eyesore has been removed. Thirty-six deteriorating portable buildings have been hauled away from the campus of George W.

Truett Elementary School. Now those passing by can see the school's beautiful new modern entrance, relocated from Gross Road to the recently renovated and expanded building.

In 2013, the Dallas Independent School District (DISD) board of trustees approved the \$13 million project to add 24 classrooms, an updated library, computer labs and gymnasium/multipurpose room.

At the ribbon-cutting ceremony on April 19, 2016, Dan Micciche, DISD board trustee for district three, thanked voters for supporting bond programs. He said,

"I can assure you that no one is happier or more relieved that this project is finally complete than I am, not even those poor teachers who spent years in exile in those miserable portables. Today Truett Elementary looks like a beautiful new school."

Needs at Truett Identified – Prior to the renovation and addition to Truett Elementary School, over 1,000 students were crammed into the building constructed in 1956 to accommodate 500 students. The building and grounds had fallen into disrepair. Problems were overlooked, and conditions were left to further deteriorate. Portable buildings had no working fire alarms or a public address system. Holes penetrated the walls. Grossly unsanitary conditions mandated that repairmen wear HAZMAT suits when working in the portable building restroom. In the main building, water poured through ceilings and down the walls when it rained, and heating and cooling was absent from the second floor.

The neighborhood went into action.

Ellen Childress is a self-described activist who is motivated by channeling her anger about unsafe, unclean conditions in her neighborhood into bringing about desired outcomes. With bulldog tenacity, she and other determined Truett Crime Watch area citizens identified problems at the school. They did not let up in their determination to create a safe environment.

Complaints and recommendations were not just left in telephone messages or dropped off on the doorstep of community and city leaders; concerned citizens worked hand in hand with leaders, encouraging progress with their can-do spirit.

Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony – At the ribbon-cutting ceremony, friendly students greeted guests, eager to talk about "the best school in DISD." With poise, they ushered guests to their seats. Principal Terre Evans welcomed guests and thanked trustees, city officials, members of the district leadership team, community leaders, staff, parents and students. She said,

"Today's ribbon-cutting ceremony symbolizes much more than the completion of physical construction. It's an opportunity to join together to celebrate the perseverance and pride of our school and community and the difference that makes for kids. The instruction and extracurricular activities available here contribute to a competitive educational environment that will empower our students for lifelong success."

Program highlights included a flag presentation and pledge of allegiance led by Harold Wendell Lang Sr. Middle School Leadership Cadet Corps, a performance by Truett's student choir, and an overview of the project's scope by Ed Levine, executive director of DISD Construction Services Department. Stephanie Elizalde, DISD chief of school leadership, said,

"We are mindful this building is nothing more than brick and steel and paint and plaster. As such, it is nothing more than a shell. With today's ceremony, however, it becomes a school, a place where our young people will come in order to learn and grow in understanding of themselves and the world around them."

Legacy Lives On – The school is named for Dr. George W. Truett, world-famous minister and writer, who demonstrated a passion for community service, public education and a concern for others. He pastored First Baptist Church of Dallas for 47 years until his death in 1944.

More than 40 national flags representing home countries of Truett students are displayed inside the building, as a fitting symbol of the rich diversity of students and the community.

Truett Elementary School upholds a proud legacy through the efforts of many folks who strive tirelessly to carry out its mission to ensure excellence in education for all students through smart work, hard work and teamwork.



Truett middle school leadership cadet corps present the U.S. and Texas flags



Kerry Goodwin, Georgia King, John and Ellen Childress, advocates of the Truett Crime Watch



The Truett Crime Watch, students join Terre Evans and Dan Micciche as they cut the ribbon officially opening the new addition



Exterior and interior of the new north entry of the Truett Elementary School addition.

Volunteer Tutors Make a Difference

Last year, Reading Partners of North Texas served 141 students with the help of 169 tutors in East Dallas. Tutors served at Eduardo Mata, George W. Truett and Bayles Elementary schools. The students who come into the Reading Partners program are reading six months to two and a half years behind their grade level and are given one-on-one curriculum instruction by their tutors. This relationship teaches students the literary skills needed to succeed in school and in life, and empowers them to have more confidence, improve classroom behavior, and so much more.

We are so grateful to the tutors with Ferguson Road Initiative; we could not do this work without your support! If you are interested in getting involved and helping us to have an even deeper impact in East Dallas, email volunteerdal@readingpartners.org or call 214-821-4500.



A Reading Partner volunteer works with her student. Photo provided by Reading Partners.



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Our First Community Court in Northeast



by Ellen Childress

A community court is a tremendous asset and enhancement to the quality of life in communities. Now anyone in the Northeast Division who commits a quality-of-life crime and is given a Class C misdemeanor citation can have his or her case heard at the Northeast Community Court (NECC). These crimes may include code violations, panhandling, illegal dumping, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Within a week of receiving a citation, the defendant will meet with a social worker for an assessment of his or her needs for social services. In lieu of paying a fine, the defendant may be ordered to perform supervised community service within the community and/or attend rehabilitative or educational programs.

"I am so excited to announce the opening of the Northeast Division's Community Court. The City's first community court, the South Dallas Community Court (SDCC), serves as a National Mentor Court for community courts across the world. As a mentor court, the SDCC hosts site visits from jurisdictions that are seeking to start or enhance a community court" said Amanda Chase.

The new NECC will be housed in the soon-to-be completely renovated fire station at Greenville Avenue and Blackwell Street in the Vickery Meadow neighborhood. This is at the center of the Northeast Division and offers accessible and reliable public transportation. The mission of our Community Prosecution section is to improve public safety and quality of life for everyone. A community court supports that mission, and the objective of rehabilitating the defendant. The court gives aid and hope to those who may have difficulty meeting their needs and maintaining their place in the community.

The fire station is in the process of being cleaned, redesigned and

renovated to serve the NECC with space for the community court, conference rooms, public spaces, offices, and meeting rooms that could be of benefit to local community organizations. The renovation is projected to take over a year. In the meantime, the court will begin its function in temporary quarters at **9451 LBJ Freeway (I635), Suite 125, Dallas, Texas 75243**. Jermaine Nation will serve as the social service/community service coordinator, and can be reached at Jermaine.nation@dallascityhall.com. Our prosecutor will be Amanda Chase, assistant city attorney and northeast community prosecutor, whose email address is amanda.chase@dallascityhall.com. The grand opening celebration was held on September 9 at the temporary location. **Please invite Mr. Nation to your crime watch or neighborhood meetings to learn more about how our community court system functions and benefits our communities.**



Future home of the Northeast Community Court

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Loose Dogs – Targeted Strategies for a Challenging Problem



by Dee Anna Hancheby

Each year, Dallas Animal Services (DAS) responds to more than 50,000 calls for assistance – many for loose dogs. And, while DAS continues to make headway through education and intervention, they need our help to tackle the issue along the Ferguson Road corridor.

“It’s definitely important to report, and it’s in the best interest in the community as well as the animal,” said Dr. Catherine McManus, DAS operations manager.

Since resources are allocated based on need, 311 reports are used to create “heat maps” for targeted intervention. Current efforts are focused on southern Dallas, but McManus said the Community Animal Resource Effort (CARE) program team, in South Dallas, may be deployed in other hot spots to educate residents about pet laws, provide information about affordable spay/neuter and vaccination services, give warning notices or citations and conduct area sweeps for loose dogs.

Residents within the Ferguson Road Initiative (FRI) area have expressed a great deal of concern about the issue – both at neighborhood meetings and on social media. For Casa View Oaks resident Vanessa Van Gilder, a brush with an aggressive dog convinced her to stop taking her dogs for walks in her own neighborhood.

“This dog charged us, and it really scared me. I don’t want my dogs to get attacked by a dog, or pack of dogs,” she said.

In the city of Dallas, pets must be contained or restrained at all times in a fenced yard, an enclosed pen or structure, or by a handheld leash. Additionally, District 7 Councilwoman Tiffinni A. Young has proposed a number of measures to address the problem – from required microchipping of pets to the creation of a loose animal task force focused on rescuing stray animals.

Due to the large volume of calls DAS receives each day, the team must constantly triage and prioritize loose dog reports. General loose dog reports are a low-priority call, since the dogs rarely stay at the original location. Top priority is given to calls for loose, aggressive dogs, followed by instances in which the caller is able to safely contain a nonaggressive loose dog or can provide the owner’s address.

In the case of “stray confined” and “loose owned” calls, DAS field staff are able to make good use of limited resources by knowing they’ll be able to pick up the animal and hopefully reunite it with its owner, or to have a conversation with noncompliant owners.

“You need to influence people’s behaviors to not let their dogs roam free to have long-standing change. If we just pick up dogs and don’t have those conversations, we’re just going to continue the cycle,” McManus explained. “We’re not perfect, but we try very hard, and we definitely want to see pets get back home – or a new home.”

Learn more about pet laws, what to do if you lose or find a pet and tips on keeping you and your pet safe while walking at dallasanimalservices.org.



Editors note: at press time, a Dallas Morning News article about DAS was a top story. To learn the latest scan this QR code.



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Your Vote Does Count



by Mari L. Madison

Participation in the great American debate is a voluntary privilege. At this point in the election cycle, most of us just want it all to end. Ferguson Road Initiative (FRI) encourages all citizens of Far East Dallas to persevere and participate in this ongoing experiment in democracy on Tuesday,

November 8, 2016. Lest we think that today's political climate is unprecedented in its ferocity, it is good to look back at the years that led up to the creation of our Constitution.

The United States Constitution is the result of a bitter, thirteen-year (1776 to 1789) debate over the extent to which the individual states would yield power to a federal government. Our founders worked to form a union of individual states that, as indicated in notes taken by James Madison and Robert Yates, would not be too strong for adoption due to the various popular biases, and yet would be sufficiently strong and well conceived to work.

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Inside the top of the Washington Monument there is a small museum, on the wall is a quote from George Washington's inaugural address on April 30, 1789.

"The preservation of the sacred fire of liberty, and the destiny of the Republican model of Government, are justly considered as deeply, perhaps as finally staked, on the experiment entrusted to the hands of the American People"

For 227 years, we the people individually and collectively have participated in this great, ever-evolving experiment of self-government. It takes two sides to have a great debate. Our founding fathers worked diligently to hammer out a compromise that was carefully framed and malleable enough to stand the test of time. It is up to all of us to join this exercise to set the right balance for our time and make our mark on the future of this great nation.

Not registered? There is still time. The deadline to register is October 11, 2016. Below are instructions on registering.



To Vote in the November Election Register by October 11th

Go to Dallas County's voting Web site where you can:

- Confirm you are registered
- Update your address
- Locate your voting precinct

www.dallascountyvotes.org

If you are not registered to vote, download a voter registration form by going to: www.dallascountyvotes.org/wpcibtebt/uploads/VR_Application.pdf or pick-up at any Dallas Public Library.

Remember, while the courts have recently ruled that Texas' Voter ID laws are unconstitutional, you may still need a photo ID to vote. Get your FREE voter ID at any driver's license office.

Vintage get-out-the-vote posters display at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in Washington, DC

Women Help Women Recover



by Mari L. Madison

Tucked away in a small neighborhood near Casa Linda Plaza, women with a deep desire to overcome alcohol addiction, find a quiet respite to detox and find mentors who have walked in their shoes. The Magdalen House provides a place where women may detox from alcohol at no cost.

"Alcoholism is kept quiet," explained Haley Brasher director of client services. "The women who come here have a safe place to talk about it," she said. "What they see is recovered alcoholic women who have turned shame into recovery and purpose."

Patterned after The Way Out Women's Center in Houston, Maggie's, opened in May 1987. Thanks to a handful of recovering female alcoholics who saw the need. Scraping up the money, they bought a house off of Lovers Lane and opened with rooms for 8 women. Early success, during its first twenty years, when more than 5,000 women passed through the doors, made clear the need for more beds.

Discovering a rundown duplex in a welcoming community, Maggie's moved to East Dallas in 1996. After renovations and the addition of 14 rooms, the house offers more than 200 suffering women, of all ages and ethnic backgrounds, the help they need each year.

"The neighborhood loves us, we do what we do quietly," said Brasher. "People in the neighborhood volunteer and donate to our garage sales," she said.

From the original detox program Maggie's has expanded services over the past 27 years. Maggie's offers three key program areas, designed to support active/recovered alcoholics, their family and friends.

Detox Program – Participation is not forced, it is up to the potential client to initiate the call. Qualified clients have 72 hours to



The Magdalen House

come in for a 14 day stay. The tools of recovery are shared daily by members of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), a separate entity. Every woman is given an AA Big Book and focuses on the first three steps. *"We give them direction and show them the way out through mentoring and example. This is how we did it," Brasher shared. "Recovery is up to them."*

Alumni Program – Alumni find ways to mentor other sufferers by telling their stories, community outreach and volunteering at the house. Recovery Enrichment Workshops help alumni find success in other areas of life and monthly birthday nights mark success. The Magdalen House Anniversary Celebration annually marks each year of their recovery. *"With over 12,000 volunteer hours in 2015, this house runs on volunteers," said Brasher. "It is a place for women to get sober and find freedom from alcohol."*

Family Support Program – A group of relatives and friends share experience, strength and hope with each other. Many have joined whose family member has taken years to get to the point of change. This group helps them cope and maintain hope through the shared experience of others dealing with an alcoholic. Meets weekly on Sunday afternoons.

For more information or if you need help, call program services at 214-324-9261, or visit the website at www.magdalenhouse.org.

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Please check your desired membership level below.

Individual and Nonprofit Membership (Minimum suggested donation)

- ☐ Household @ \$50 per year
- ☐ Patron @ any amount above \$50 per year
- ☐ Nonprofits, Churches and Neighborhood Associations @ \$100 per year

Business Membership (Minimum suggested donation)

- ☐ Business, Small (1 – 10 employees) @ \$100 per year
- ☐ Business, Medium (11 – 99 employees) @ \$375 per year
- ☐ Business, Large (100, or more employees) @ \$500 per year

Founder's Circle

I want to join the FRI Community Connection Founder's Circle by making a multi-year pledge.

Level of Support (check one)	Benefits
<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 per year for 3 years (\$3,000 total)	Donor plaque and quarterly recognition in the FRI e-blast
<input type="checkbox"/> \$2,500 per year for 3 years (\$7,500 total)	All the above, plus semiannual recognition in the <i>FRI</i> days news magazine (mailed to 17,00 households)
<input type="checkbox"/> \$5,000 per year for 3 years (\$15,000 total)	All the above, plus your logo on the FRI website and a 15% discount on advertising in the <i>FRI</i> days news magazine. Organizational promotion via FRI social media and website
<input type="checkbox"/> \$7,500 per year for 3 years (\$22,500 total)	All of the above, plus recognition at public business and community meetings
<input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000 per year for 3 years (\$30,000 total)	All of the above, plus a permanent banner on the FRI website and recognition at all special events
<input type="checkbox"/> > \$10,000 in any given year \$____,____	All of the above

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FRI is deeply indebted to our Founder's Circle Members, who are members who have made an annual pledge to FRI for three years.

\$10,000 a year for 3 years

Baylor, Scott & White Hospital - White Rock

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(As of July 31, 2016)

If you are a member and do not see your name, please contact the FRI office at 214-324-5116 so that we can correct our records. Forgive us for this oversight.

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Promise of Peace Garden
St. Mark's Presbyterian Church
The Magdalen House
Truett Area Crime Watch
White Rock Center of Hope, Inc.
Wilkinson Center

J.T. Walker – In Memoriam



Ferguson Road Initiative (FRI) lost a good friend in July when J.T. Walker, member of the FRI board of directors since 2011, passed away after a long illness. J.T. was a long-time East Dallas resident who lived in the Claremont Addition. He took an active interest in the neighborhood for more than 30 years, culminating in joining the board five years ago. *"J.T. was one of the kindest and most generous people I have ever known. He was always looking to help others," said FRI Board Secretary, Bill Coleman. "He will very much be missed."*

J.T. contributed substantial amounts of time during a critical period in the life of FRI as we made the transition from being a federally funded program to one reliant solely on its members for support. J.T., a practicing oil and gas attorney, put his legal expertise to good use for the community in negotiating a number of contracts that helped FRI to complete the changeover.

In addition, he took on the very important job of selling advertising to cover the nearly \$25,000 annual cost to publish and distribute this FRI news magazine, FRIdays. He did this for years, always refusing to take any commission for himself.

The magazine carries the FRI message of neighborhood empowerment to over 18,000 households throughout Far East Dallas. J.T. took great pride in the magazine and said,

"The publication of FRIdays shows what can be done when we come together as a community, whether it's the opening of the White Rock Hills Branch Library or FRI's current endeavor, to plan and build the White Rock Hills Community Recreation Center for the residents of Far East Dallas."

Honor the life of J.T. Walker by making a contribution in his name to FRI online at www.fergusonroad.org or send by mail to FRI, P.O. Box 570417, Dallas, TX 75357.



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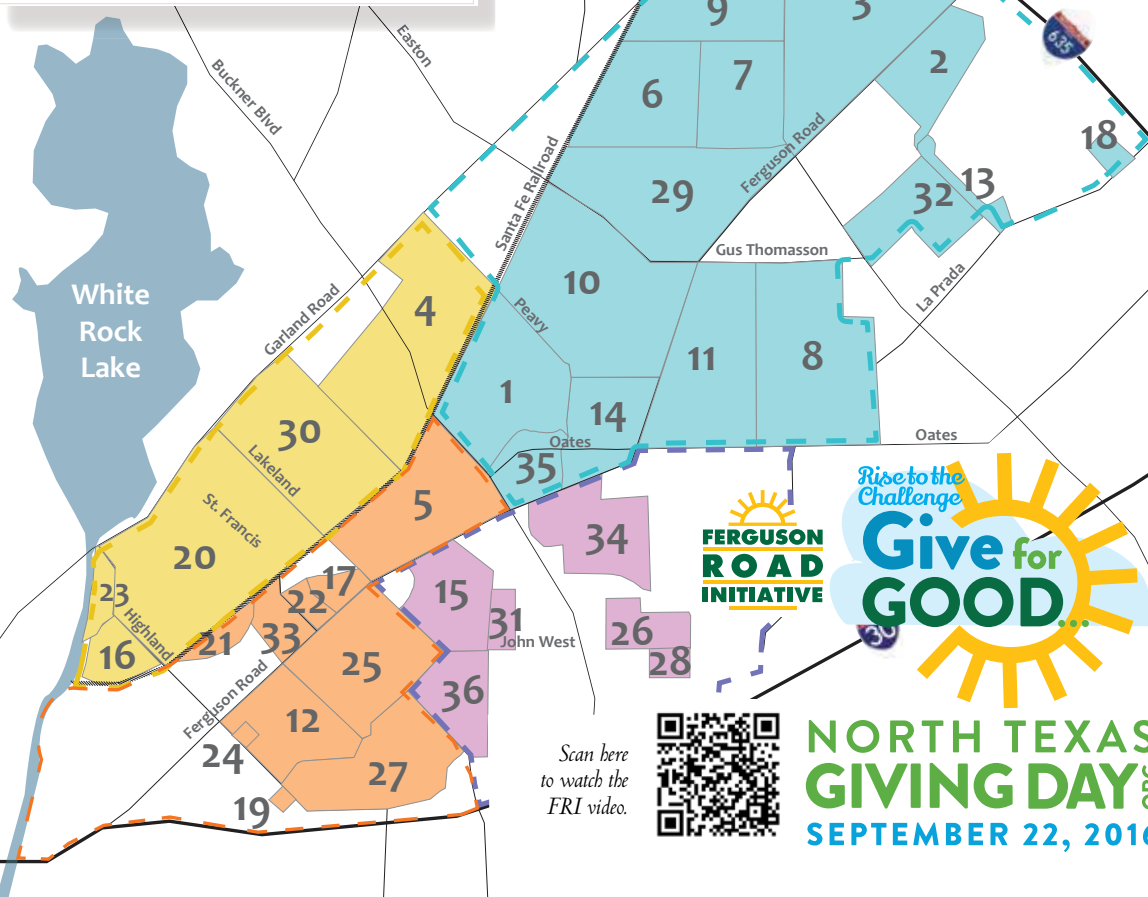
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-  FRI Forest Hills/Casa Linda Area
-  FRI White Rock Hills
-  Greater Casa View Alliance



Far East Dallas Neighborhoods

- 1 - Alger Park/Ash Creek NA (1153)
www.crimewatch1153.org
214-967-5191 (Voicemail)
- 2 - Braeburn Glen CW (1132)
www.braeburn-glen.com
214-967-5078 (Voicemail)
- 3 - Briarwood NA (1258)
www.briarwoodna.com
- 4 - Casa Linda Estates NA
www.casalindaestates.com
- 5 - Casa Linda Forest NA
214-967-5076 (Voicemail)
- 6 - Casa View Heights CW (1129)
- 7 - Casa View Heights CW (1130)
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- 15 - Eastwood Hills NA
www.eastwoodhillsdallas.com
info@eastwoodhillsdallas.com
- 16 - Enclave at White Rock HOA
- 17 - Estates at Forest Hills HOA
www.estatesatforesthills.com
info@estatesatforesthills.com
- 18 - Fairway Estates HOA
- 19 - Forest Creek HOA
- 20 - Forest Hills Association
www.foresthillsdallas.org
- 21 - Forest Meade HOA
- 22 - Forest Oaks NA
- 23 - Highland on the Creek
- 24 - Highlands Apartments CW
- 25 - Hillridge CW
214-967-5080 (Voicemail)
hillridgecrimewatch@yahoo.com
- 26 - Hillview Terrace NA
214-967-5160 (Voicemail)
- 27 - Lakeland Hills CW
214-967-5084 (Voicemail)
- 28 - Light Pointe Place HOA
- 29 - Little Casa View
ferrismichelle@hotmail.com
- 30 - Little Forest Hills NA
lfhneighborhood@swbell.net
- 31 - Skyline Heights CW
- 32 - St. Andrews CW
jessicakyoung@me.com
- 33 - Stonegate at Forest Hills
- 34 - Truett CW
www.truettareacw.org
- 35 - White Rock Forest NA
- 36 - White Rock Village CW
info@neighborhoodlink.com
214-967-5190 (Voicemail)

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GIVING DAY
SEPTEMBER 22, 2016