

FRIdays

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SPRING 2017



**Pulling the
Plans Together
for Good**



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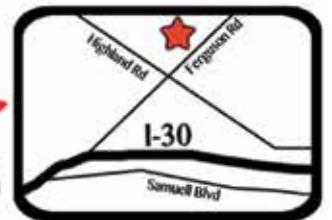
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ON THE COVER

*FRI*days, cover celebrates the completion of the four small area strategic plans picturing leaders who participated in the process. From left to right, Nicole Miller, Gerry Worrall, Bill Coleman, Amanda Buckley, Mike Nurre and Debbie VanZant. A big thank you to Robie Capps Photography for donating his time and professional talents.
www.robiecapps.com

FRI Spring Roundup—Updates

White Rock Hills Community Recreation Center (CENTER)



by *Vikki J. Martin, President, Ferguson Road Initiative*

I am excited to update you on the CENTER progress and recent developments. Working with the City of Dallas, Parks and Recreation Department Director, our dedicated Park Board Representatives and Councilmembers Tiffinni A. Young, District 7, and Mark Clayton, District 9, we are modifying the strategy to accelerate Phase One to provide a new

White Rock Hills Park with custom amenities selected by the community. Also, the park and CENTER site will be designed so it can be linked to the City of Dallas Hike and Bike Trail Master Plan. In addition, the City will be responsible for funding the CENTER through future bond programs.

Through the efforts of Ms. Young and Mr. Clayton, the City is providing \$450,00 to design and construct phase one of the park, which will include the trail linkage and a playground. Additional amenities will be added to the park as funds are available. The good news is – this will not require any matching funds from charitable donations. This would be an immediate benefit to the community, fully funded by the City, and built aligned with the approved CENTER master plan.

The Dallas Park and Recreation Department will own and operate the CENTER, and is open to creative program partnerships tailored to our community. This could include arts and culture, health and wellness, youth and senior services, and environmental and nutritional programs. FRI is exploring potential partners based on community input and priorities, and will introduce the Parks and Recreation Department to long-term foundation partners that might have an interest in contributing to the CENTER as a way of meeting the poverty, housing, education and nutritional needs of our underserved community.

A lot has transpired regarding the CENTER since our last report, and FRI is encouraged by the willingness of all to work together to see

immediate and continued progress toward the CENTER. In the meantime, you will notice that the Crestwood Apartments located at 2131 Highland Road, have been torn down, and the Casa Blanca Apartments next door at 2165 Highland Road, are soon to follow. Clearing this land creates momentum for the CENTER project.

The top five short-term choices from the February 6 FRI Community Connection Townhall Meeting Poll include:

1. Walking Trail Loop with Exercise Stations
2. Playground
3. Picnic Pavilions
4. Dog Park
5. Basketball and Volleyball Courts.

The long-term priorities are an Amphitheater and an Urban Farm.



Community members vote for their preferences to be considered for Phase I of the White Rock Hills Community Recreation Center site.



Final demolition of Crestwood Apartments makes way for the White Rock Hills Park and future White Rock Hills Community Recreation Center.



McDonald's community liaison, Bob Lucero, and McDonald's owner, Larry Ingram, share a moment at the FRI Donation Station. Thank you, Larry, for your support of FRI.

Thanks to YOU!

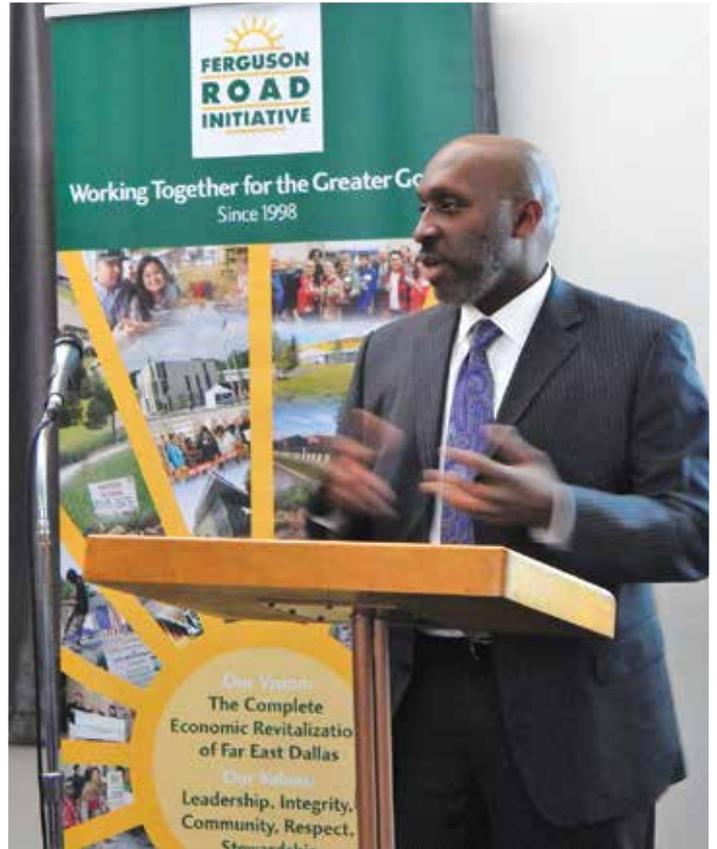
It is a thrill to report the \$25,000 in contributions you made as part of the North Texas Giving Day (NTGD) Challenge Grant campaign in September 2016.

- We especially thank the McDonald's Corporation for their loyal support of FRI and for kicking off the campaign with a \$5,000 gift. This donation helped us exceed our \$10,000 goal and connect over 33 generous donors.
- Baylor Scott & White Medical Center at White Rock continues to invest in FRI as a Founder's Circle Member with a three-year pledge.
- We are indebted to our friends at Grifols, one of our \$5000 Founder's Circle members.
- We also thank the East Dallas Networking Group for their investment in FRI.
- Our good friends at Young Chevrolet continue to be an asset to the community by underwriting this year's Operation Beautification Litter Cleanup Event.
- FRI could not do what we do without the in-kind support that we get from folks like Bishop Lynch High School, who hosted our annual FRI Board Strategic Planning Workshop on their beautiful campus. Thank you to everyone who invests time, talent and treasure to make our community a better place to live, work and play!

communityconnection@fergusonroad.org.



FRI board of directors, committee members and friends participated in a weekend workshop at Bishop Lynch High School to plan FRI's goals for this calendar year.



In his first week on the job, Dallas City Manager, T. C. Broadnax addresses the FRI Community Connection Townhall Meeting and fields questions from the audience.

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Strategic Plans Have All Far East



by Mari L. Madison

How do we keep a big city like Dallas feeling like home to diverse and unique communities? This was the challenge undertaken by the Dallas City Council (DCC) at the turn of the century. The result was the adoption of the *forwardDallas!* comprehensive plan on June 14, 2006. One of the big ideas that resulted is to empower direct citizen

involvement through Small Area Strategic Plans (SASPs). Let the people tell the city what they want. It didn't take long for Far East Dallas (FED) – left off the map in the original plan – to respond. (see small map below or go to www.forwarddallas.org/forward-dallas-comprehensive-plan)

What began in the communities on lower Ferguson and Garland roads, with the DCC's approval of two SASPs in 1998 and 1999, spread north. Approval for the next plan came in 2012, culminating 19 years later with the adoption of the fourth SASP in December 2016, covering the northernmost portion of the region east of White Rock Lake.

This unprecedented regional response to the City of Dallas SASP was celebrated in February at the Ferguson Road Initiative's (FRI) Community Connection Semiannual Town Hall Meeting.

Leaders from each of the SASPs and the City of Dallas were invited to present on each of their plans. Gloria Tarpley, chairperson of the Dallas City Plan Commission, commissioner for district 9 opened the presentation discussing the importance of SASPs. In short, when neighborhoods redefine zoning, they must go through a process involving stakeholders,

neighborhoods redefine zoning, they must go through a process involving stakeholders,

homeowners, planning commissioners and businesses with the idea to lay out a vision for the future development of an area and its zoning. The master plan gives the city a tool to understand how the impacted communities would prefer space to be dedicated.

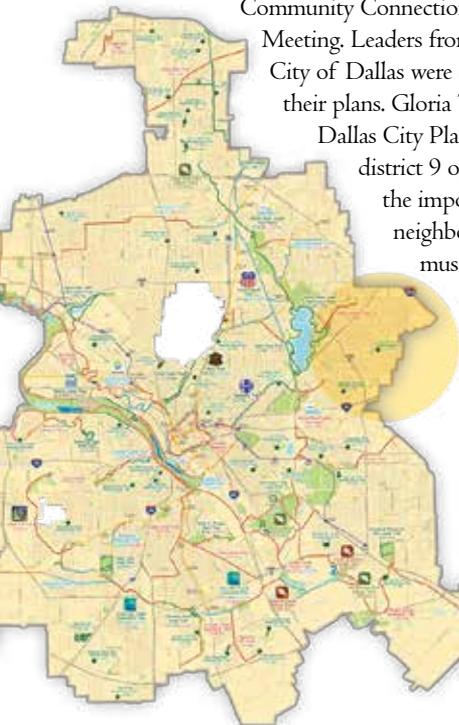
*FRI*days reached out to Ms. Tarpley after this meeting to learn more about the importance these plans have for the future of Far East Dallas. Here are her responses.

What does it mean to a community to have a plan? “It means that a community has come together as a group of stakeholders in a small area, to chart the course for its future development. When a small area plan process is begun, it will entail a large number of community meetings and very extensive community outreach to make sure all individuals and aspects are considered. The concept of an SASP was originally set out in *forwardDallas!*”

Why is it important? “An SASP becomes important once it has been fully created and approved by the City Plan Commission and the City Council. SASPs provide a more detailed view of the development that is acceptable and desirable for the community. This provides the city guidance for such development, above and beyond the basic zoning status of a given property.”

How is the plan used by the City? “The City, at both the Plan Commission and the City Council stage, will consider any zoning change request they may receive within the context of what the neighbors and stakeholders have chosen and which is memorialized in the SASP.”

How does a community use a plan they develop? “The community will use it as a basis to argue in support of the changes and development that they have indicated as desirable and approved by City Council.”



Future FED trail extensions and access

- A. White Rock Creek Trail extension north to St. Frances Park and CENTER
- B. Enhanced trail amenities to existing trails and a proposed Dixon Branch trail northeast to Garland Road
- C. Nine-minute bike ride to the trail-head at St Frances Park
- D. Rails With Trails extension along the Santa Fe Rail right-of-way north



Dallas Covered

How do the four area plans in Far East Dallas work in concert to support one another? “The four area plans don’t really interact in any way, but all signify the wishes for future development in the four different areas they address.”

Looking back, it is interesting to observe how as the first successive plans spurred the next, each area was inspired by the success of the other. Each community stepped up to make sure their specific needs were not overlooked.

Looking at the four completed plans as a group reveals not only the different priorities, but the commonalities. Included in the plans is a desire to be connected to the second big idea to come out of *forward-Dallas!* (the award-winning Dallas Trail Plan) and embrace the Dallas Park and Recreation Department’s vision – as stated on their website, www.dallasparks.org/149/Trails – that great trail systems are associated with great cities. Linking communities with trails and greenways is a critical component of the urban fabric. Trails provide numerous benefits and create a sustainable and healthy community.

Wanting to be connected to the rest of Dallas and sustain the unique character of their communities is what the citizens in the region agree on. This is what unifies Far East Dallas. Each community has the choice to leverage this power by choosing to support each other’s plan around this common cause, as we seek to advance our individual priorities. Unity gives power to success. FRI’s mission has long been to transform Far East Dallas into a safe, beautiful, prosperous and proud community by inspiring hope and working together to achieve a shared vision. Let’s all choose to support each other’s efforts and work together for the greater good.

Timeline of Far East Dallas SASPs

These are the highlights of the presentations from each leader regarding the various plans at FRI’s Community Connection Semiannual Town Hall meeting. Learn more about each plan by visiting their websites.

A. 1998, Lower Ferguson Road Corridor, now re-branded White Rock Hills (WRH) –

Vikki J. Martin explained that crime and economic degeneration was the rationale for the WRH community to engage in an SASP. Many of the ideas generated from the 1998 study have already come to fruition: the rebuilding of Highland Road from Ferguson to Jim Miller, completed in 2005; the WRH Library, completed in 2012 and continued progress toward the realization of the WRH Community Recreation Center, which will include a connection and extension of the White Rock Creek Trail North to Saint Francis Park. The community has also worked on alleviation of flooding and creek erosion, improvement of infrastructure and beautification.

www.fergusonroad.org

B. 1999, Garland Road, San Rafael-NW Hwy/2010 Garland Road Vision Plan –

Gerry Worrall led the Garland Road Vision Plan. Dallas Mayor Pro Tem Gary Griffith wanted to explore how to attract the local economy and retail into this area of the district. The idea was to enhance Buckner and Garland roads and have packages ready for the bond. He expanded his committee to include neighborhoods, then found funding partners, which resulted in an emphasis on land use and beautification. It was proposed to connect existing trails around White Rock Lake to a White Rock Creek Trail South extension. The Greater East Dallas Chamber has taken on the project and continues to update it.

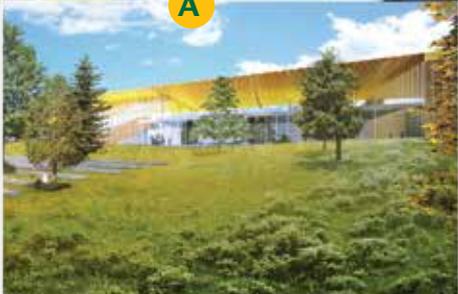
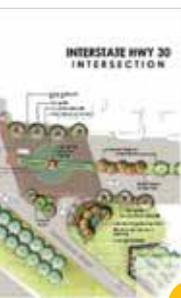
www.garlandroadvision.org

C. 2012, 2-Points, recently re-branded White Rock East –

Ann Bagley reported that they focused on Peavy and Gross roads. They looked at how to improve the quality of life and highlighted education, safety and access to transportation for the elderly. The community is proud of the tremendous work that has been done to improve George W. Truett Elementary School through their advocacy. Access to the trail system from the White Rock East area will be a short nine-minute bike ride to the Saint Francis Park extension.

www.2pointstowhiterockeast.com

D. 2016, Greater Casa View Area – Amanda Buckley stated that demographic data was considered, and the community focused their interests on the Casa View Shopping Center at Gus Thomasson, Harry Stone Recreation Center and a desire to implement a “rails to trails” program that will extend the trail along the Santa Fe Railroad north to LBJ. The main theme of the study was to explore how different parts of the community can be connected with one another and with the City. This study was completed in December 2016. www.greatercasaview.org



Public-Private Partnership Sparks Renewal in Casa View

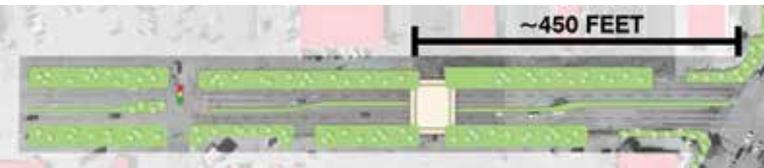


by Mike Nurre

With the approval in February of a \$2 million public-private partnership between the City of Dallas and the owners of Casa View Shopping Center, the intersection of Gus Thomasson and Ferguson will undergo a visible transformation in the coming months. This exciting news is roughly five years in the making and represents a true

partnership that will make the area more attractive to locals, tenants and future businesses.

Street improvements are first on the list for the public-private partnership. As the city begins construction this spring, the short stretch of six-lane traffic on Gus Thomasson will be permanently reduced to four lanes – a “road diet” designed by experts to slow traffic to a safer speed. In the process, the city will make adjacent improvements to add green spaces and eliminate concrete eyesores that impede wheelchair and pedestrian access along the sidewalk. *See rendering below.*



Once the street construction is complete, the owners and management of the Casa View Shopping center will begin making improvements to this beloved landmark, including reconfiguring and resurfacing the parking lot and enhancing the courtyard area, known to locals as “the Arcade.”

City Council Approves Greater Casa View Area Plan

The announcement of the Casa View Shopping Center improvements comes on the heels of the council's approval of the Greater Casa View Area Plan, which will serve as a road map for redevelopment and revitalization in the area.



Above is a concept illustration of Casa View Shopping Center that is included in the GCVA Small Area Strategic Plan.

Headed by Amanda Buckley with support from Brad Boling and many others, including pro bono involvement from Omniplan, the plan provides additional guidance for development beyond the city's standard requirements. Buckley said, “I'm confident that the approval of this area plan will enable us – and those who come after us – to develop extraordinary neighborhoods and attract, excite and retain exceptional neighbors.”



Mindy Niehaus greets Atom Stevens, who lives in a Cliff May subdivision in Denver, Colorado, called Harvey Park. Stevens traveled here from Denver to attend the tour.

Cliff May Home Tour Attracts More than 500

As one of the largest enclaves of homes designed by mid-century modern homebuilder Cliff May, Casa View Oaks attracted more than 500 attendees during our first-ever Cliff May Home Tour in the fall of 2016. Attendees came from all over Dallas, as well as Coppell, Frisco, Plano – even Colorado and Wisconsin. Many thanks to our sponsors, volunteers, attendees, and especially the seven homeowners who opened their homes for this memorable event.

GCVA Passes Resolution for 635 Expansion

In response to the state's proposed expansion of LBJ Freeway from I-75 to I-30, the Greater Casa View Alliance recently passed a resolution urging construction to begin in 2018. Not only will the expansion ease traffic along the lanes of 635 itself, but it will also create continuous two-lane access roads in both directions to create easy-on, easy-off exits and entrance ramps that should encourage economic development by attracting more businesses along this heavily traveled stretch leading to our area.

The Greater Casa View Alliance is an assemblage of leaders from individual neighborhood associations and crime watches throughout the Greater Casa View area who are committed to the broader betterment of the area. This group serves as a bridge for all neighborhoods to create a single voice for the community. To learn more, visit

greatercasaview.org.

Saving Lives Around the World and Supporting Local Communities



by Mari L. Madison

Tucked quietly in the southeast corner of Casa View Center is a global innovator with a heart for the community. Grifols' pioneering spirit dates back 75 years to Barcelona, Spain, and the research laboratories of hematologist Dr. José Antonio Grifols Roig. Today they provide safe, effective blood-plasma therapies and products designed for hospitals, laboratories and healthcare providers around the world.

The irreplaceable ingredient for these lifesaving medicines is human blood plasma. This is what drives Grifols to place donation centers in local marketplaces for the convenience of donors. "All our plasma donor centers are run like small community-based businesses, so we get to know our donors and the community," said Colin Seal, manager of public affairs.

From the selection of locations to operating hours, Grifols' plasma centers strive to make it easy for people to donate plasma.

There is a big difference between donating blood and donating plasma. Plasma, the clear liquid portion of blood, contains proteins and antibodies vital to the body's ability to maintain critical functions like controlling bleeding and fighting infections. Unlike blood transfusions, plasma is used to treat patients by replacing these missing or deficient proteins in their own plasma. These unique proteins are only found in human plasma; there are no generics or substitutes. "It takes anywhere from 130 to 1,200 donations to make enough medicine to treat one patient for just one year. Many people are dependent on these medicines for their whole lives," explained Seal.

After donation, each unit of plasma is extensively tested for safety under careful controls and turned into medications through a multiphased production process that separates out the therapeutic proteins. Next, the proteins, under strict safety guidelines, are purified and sterilized to best maintain their therapeutic properties. "As you can see, being a plasma donor is extremely important, and we would love to see more and more people choosing to donate plasma," continued Seal.

The key difference between donating blood and plasma is a specialized medical device that separates the donor's plasma and returns red blood cells to the donor. Plasma is mostly water, so the body is able to regenerate itself quickly and donors can donate more frequently.

Grifols recruits individuals committed to being regular plasma donors. Only plasma from repeat donors is used to make Grifols' medicines. Donors go through the entire screening and donation process at least two times before their plasma can be used.

"We thank all of our donors for their donations, which are making a difference in thousands of lives in the Dallas area and globally," added Seal. Grifols strives to be a good neighbor. FRI is thankful for Grifols' seven-year Founder's Circle contribution. "We are always looking for opportunities to give back to the community through charitable contributions, volunteer events and other outreach activities," said Seal.



Grifols' plasma derivatives, clinical diagnostics products and hospital products share one purpose – to serve the needs of millions of patients and to support health professionals.

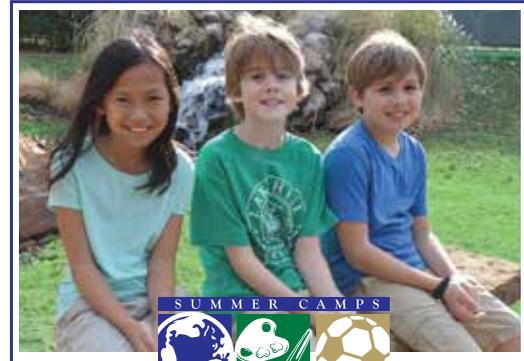
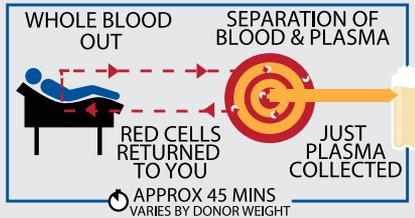


The production of plasma-derived medicines depends on the commitment of regular donors.

DONATION

When you donate plasma, the process is called plasmapheresis (plaz-mah-fair-EE-sis). This is a method of removing plasma from the body by withdrawing blood, separating it into plasma and cells and returning the cells back into the bloodstream.

PLASMAPHERESIS



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L A K E H I L L
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Casa View Elementary Granted New Wing



by Carol Ann Ravert

Tied for last place in the Dallas Independent School District (DISD) in regard to the safety ranking, and with the most portables of any elementary school in DISD, Casa View Elementary School was included in DISD's Interim Bridge Plan.

In a unanimous vote of the nine DISD trustees at a March 26, 2015, meeting, \$129.5 million was budgeted to alleviate some of the district's immediate facility needs. Casa View Elementary School received \$5.3 million for an additional wing and prioritized improvements.

Board President Dan Micciche, who also serves Casa View School as trustee in his Far East Dallas district, made an impassioned plea to authorize funds for an added wing to Casa View School to alleviate problems related to student safety, security and overcrowding. Micciche also told the board, "Nine neighboring elementary schools are also full."

Micciche gave compelling reasons to accelerate the addition to Casa View School. The facility built to accommodate 550 children was serving 738. The main building has 31 classrooms, one with a loud transformer in the middle, which renders it unusable.

There are 26 portable buildings with only one bathroom for 263 of the children. Portables are located near the street. Break-ins and vandalism are constant. Finding drug paraphernalia and other distasteful materials littering around the portables is a common occurrence.

Some portables are without heat. On hot days, air conditioning units are loud or do not work at all. Some portables are so far from the main building, it is difficult for students and teachers to hear the fire alarm when it sounds.

Following the March 2015 DISD board meeting, Sara Hundley, Stonewall Jackson Elementary School PTA president said,

"It was a really proud moment last night to see how the East Dallas community banded together and advocated not only for our schools but other DISD schools."

Construction at Casa View School began in August of 2016 and is expected to be completed by June 15, 2017.

Principal Oscar Aponte said, "Our new building addition will be a great opportunity for our pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students at Casa View. We all know the importance of early childhood education, and having a great facility will help our teachers ensure our students will be college- and career-ready. This addition was possible thanks to Mr. Dan Micciche, our board member, who came to the school and saw the need to replace the majority of our portables. We also had another parent, Mita Havlick, who despite not living in our attendance area, spoke to the school board on behalf of our community the night the new addition was approved."

In addition to the added wing, improvements planned for Casa View School include replacing the boiler and chiller, restroom refurbishments, lights replacements, grease trap upgrades, playground equipment replacement, fencing around dumpsters, painting and correcting other needs.

Erica O'Brien, Parent Liaison at Casa View said, "Parents are excited and look forward to seeing the finished project. We will all be happy to get rid of some of the portable buildings. The addition will give residents of the Casa View area even more pride in their community."

Micciche recently stated, "I am pleased that the addition is near completion. The new wing will alleviate many of the safety concerns we have had and will improve the learning environment for students and the appearance of the campus and the neighborhood."



Keith Farmer, superintendent, Rattcliff Constructors L.P.



Above, Jose Reveles Castillo and Abraham Sixtos of North Texas Drywall, outside the new building entrance. Right, central classroom corridor.



Uplift Update



by Gary Lawler

The spring 2016 issue of *FRI*days described Uplift White Rock Hills public charter school coming to I-30 and Ferguson Road. In both appearance and purpose, Uplift promises to be a major asset to our community. The school is converting a long-blighted property into an attractive and inviting gateway into White Rock Hills.

Uplift will have a college preparedness focus. As scholars progress from kindergarten to high school, they enter a Road to College program. The program's goal is mastery of reading, writing, math, social studies and science. Going beyond the basics, Uplift works to develop scholars who think critically, challenge themselves, develop independence and gain understanding of the world.

Uplift White Rock Hills is an open-enrollment, free, public charter school. Admission is through a lottery system. There are no specific requirements to apply. Applications are accepted beginning December 1 each year for the following school year. The 2017 lottery deadline for Uplift White Rock Hills was March 1. Find information about the application process for next year online at upliftwhiterockhills.org.

Uplift expects construction to be completed the first week in August and to hold a grand opening ceremony in September or October.

"We are so excited to be welcomed into the White Rock Hills community with our new school opening in August. We're looking forward to providing a high-quality educational option for families in the neighborhood and inviting the community into our school," said Yasmin Bhatia, CEO of Uplift Education.

Below, Uplift White Rock Hills scholars develop a joy for learning and adopt the mindset of being a lifelong learner.



Uplift White Rock Hills public charter school—another educational option is on the horizon.



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Solving Senior Hunger in Far East Dallas One Meal at a Time



by Paul E. Maynard

We live in a world of such abundance, many times we can be surprised to learn that many of those around us are actually searching for their next meal. And feeling real hunger pangs.

One segment of our population that seems to go unnoticed when it comes to hunger is seniors.

Those in our community that are beyond their

work years and living on fixed incomes often find themselves making choices between a meal and other necessities.

But that's not the case in Far East Dallas. It is truly amazing what is happening at the local level when it comes to feeding our older citizens. There are no less than five major programs that are providing meals for seniors in our local communities here on the east side.



The generosity of many Meals on Wheels volunteers makes it possible for VNA to help people age with dignity and independence at home.

Meals on Wheels – The most visible and probably most recognizable is Meals on Wheels. This program provides hot, nutritious, freshly prepared meals five days a week to Dallas County residents who can't provide for themselves due to illness, advanced age or disability. These meals contribute to the overall health and well-being of participating seniors, including those with chronic illnesses that are affected by diet, such as diabetes and heart disease, and frail seniors who are homebound. **Email, volunteer@vnatexas.org**

CC Young Cares – At the center of Far East Dallas, CC Young senior living and senior care center also has a program that provides outreach and meals to seniors at no charge. *“Our senior meals program is a way for our organization to extend benevolence beyond our campus into the community,”* Sharon Ballew said. Ms. Ballew is vice president of development for CC Young. *“Over the past two years, we've reached many seniors needing help with meals either because of financial or health reasons.”*

CC Young provides flash-frozen meals to area churches to distribute to their networks of needy older adults. **Email sballew@ccyoung.org.**

Wilkinson Center is also a source of pride in the Far East Dallas community, using their central food pantry services to help individuals and families meet their nutritional needs each month. Approximately 30% of their 11,000 food pantry clients are seniors. *“Our senior clients visit us on a more frequent basis than other clients,”* Anne Reeder said. Ms. Reeder is executive director of Wilkinson Center. Many of their clients have to choose between paying for food or another expense such as rent, utilities, transportation, medicine or education, she continued. *“We even have a gentleman who rides his scooter across Buckner Boulevard to get food every month so he can pay for his medicine,”* Ms. Reeder said. *“Luckily, at Wilkinson Center, we can help with rent, utilities, transportation and other crisis expenses through our Emergency Services.”* **www.wilkinsoncenter.org**

White Rock Center of Hope – Yet another option for seniors in need of a good meal in Far East Dallas: White Rock Center of Hope. With origins as a food pantry in 1988, this full-service ministry still works to ensure that no one goes hungry in Far East Dallas. Last year their pantry distributed over 585,300 pounds of food to 9,000 people in 3,500 Far East Dallas homes; that averages to 567,000 meals, of which nearly 50,000 went to seniors.

“We are pleased we were able to raise the amount of food distributed per person in the last year,” Kimberly Humphries said. Ms. Humphries is development director for the White Rock Center for Hope.

“We've been able to increase our per-person distribution from 22 pounds to at least 35 pounds, with much of it going out as fresh produce. That makes a big difference in people's quality of life,” she continued. **www.whiterockcenterofhope.org**

It's good to know this wealth of services exists in our corner of the city.



C. C. Young Cares provides frozen meals to participating groups and they, in turn, distribute the meals to those they know are in need of assistance.



Wilkinson Center's “client-choice” shopping model allows clients to choose food according to their needs and preferences.

Wilkinson Center's Adult Education Center Opens Doors

by Erin Marissa Russell



When students walk through the doors of Wilkinson Center's Adult Education Center on Buckner Boulevard, they want to improve their situations. For some, completing their ESL or GED certification opens new job prospects, allows them to maintain a current job or qualifies them for a promotion.

"For some students, it's simply a personal goal," said Maria Powers, director of adult education. *"They didn't finish the first time around because of whatever obstacle presented itself at the time — and now, as a mother, grandmother, they want to prove to themselves that they can achieve this milestone."*

Reaching that goal doesn't only make a difference in the lives of the students, Director of Development Dana Fay said. *"The overwhelmingly large number of people living in the Dallas area who lack the essential skills to adequately provide for themselves and their families — no matter how long and how hard they work — is a problem not only for those individuals and their families but for the community as a whole,"* she said. Fay referenced a 2009 study that estimated the lifetime cost to taxpayers of a citizen who has not passed their GED as \$300,000, *"most of that borne at the local and state level."*

While learning from degreed professionals, the mostly female students work with case managers who help them plan and achieve their educational and career goals.

"Wilkinson Center partners with Dallas Workforce and Dallas County Community Colleges, specifically Eastfield and El Centro, to ensure that our students have access to the education, training and jobs they need to be truly self-sufficient and successful," said Anne Reeder, executive director.

The Center has served 1,100 students since July 1, 2016, across its eight locations. By June 30 of this year, the staff hope to see a difference in the lives of 1,650 students, Reeder said.

Members of the community can get involved by volunteering via the Friends of Wilkinson Center and Young Friends of Wilkinson Center or through donations. www.thewilkinsoncenter.org/programs



White Rock Center of Hope volunteers sort food for the pantry. Left to right: Alice McLean, Patsy Chalmers, Pauline Millender. Those who qualify for assistance have access to food once a month.



Students seek to improve their lives at Wilkinson Center's Adult Education Center.



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Northeast Patrol Division Welcomes the Return of Major Avery Moore



by Jennifer Afflerbach

The Far East Dallas community recently bid farewell to the retiring commander of the Dallas Police Department's (DPD) Northeast Patrol Division and welcomed back a familiar face as his replacement.

Deputy Chief Andrew Acord, Commander of the Northeast Division since 2013, has retired after 36 years with DPD. Acord's successor, Major Avery L. Moore, is no stranger to the Northeast Patrol Division, which serves the Ferguson Road Initiative (FRI) readership area. Named as Acting Deputy Chief, Moore is a 26-year veteran of the Dallas Police Department and began his career at the Northeast Division as a patrol officer.

City Councilmember Mark Clayton (District 9) expressed his appreciation for Acord's dedicated service to the citizens of Dallas: "I worked very closely with Chief Acord during some of the happiest and saddest times in Dallas District 9," he said. "Many people may not know that in addition to being the commander of the Northeast Patrol Division, Chief Acord was called upon to work on several important projects at DPD headquarters."

FRI president Vikki J. Martin also commended the outgoing and incoming chiefs: "Chief Acord truly understood the meaning of community policing and collaboration," she said. "That's why we are looking forward to working with our new Acting Deputy Chief, Avery Moore. FRI worked with Major Moore when we were receiving Weed & Seed funding for enhanced law enforcement through the Department of Justice. We know him to be a strong advocate of community policing who values the efforts of volunteers who dedicate time to their communities."



Northeast Division DPD officers take turns welcoming their new commander.

The Northeast Division held a Community Meet and Greet in December at Highland Oaks Church of Christ on Walnut Hill Lane to introduce the new commander. Councilmember Clayton thanked the community for turning out to welcome the newly named Acting Deputy Chief, Avery Moore, and praised him for his communication style. "I think he is going to do a fantastic job," Clayton said.

Moore said he feels privileged to be chosen to lead the patrol station where he spent his first 16 years. "I care about the Northeast; I care about the community; I care about you guys," Moore said. Encouraging community engagement, he added, "We need your help, your eyes, your ears. If you see something, say something."

Moore, who was the SWAT commander the day of the attacks against the Dallas Police and Dallas Area Rapid Transit Police on July 7, 2016, thanked the community for its support after the attacks.

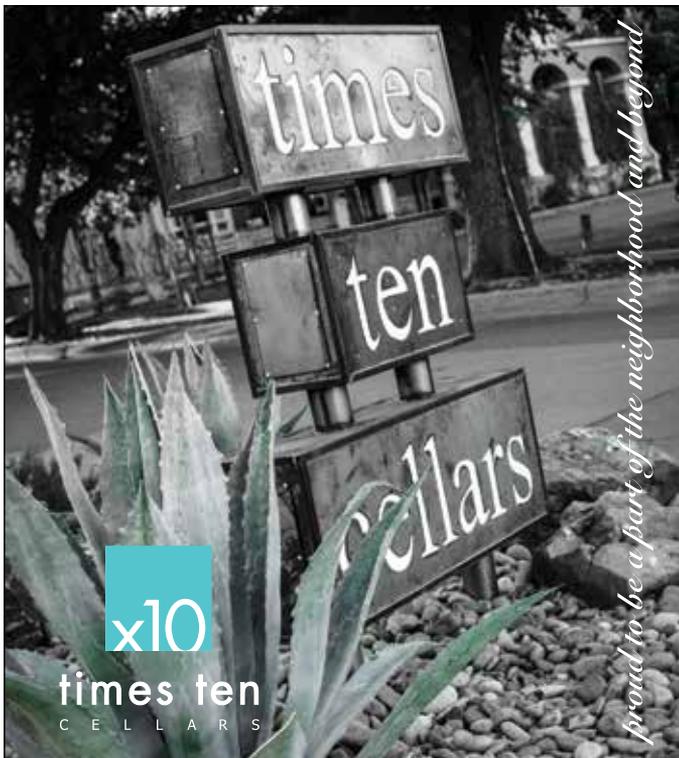


"The outpouring from the community was so meaningful to our officers," he said. "A thank-you to an officer goes a long way."

Moore previously worked as a first-line supervisor in the Communications Division the North Central Patrol Division, and the Dallas Police Academy. He is originally from Lawton, Oklahoma, and holds an M.B.A. from the University of Phoenix.

Pictured above, Acting Deputy Chief Avery Moore speaks at Northeast Division Meet and Greet.

Pictured to the right, Councilmember Tiffinni A. Young stands with Acting Deputy Chief Avery Moore at the Public Safety Town Hall Meeting she sponsored for the residents of Dallas City Council District 7 on February 16, 2017.



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Protect Your Family: Check Your Auto Airbag for Possible Risk of Fatal Explosion



by Ken Benson

The airbag in your vehicle may have a deadly defect – instead of protecting you, these defective airbags can explode, spraying metal fragments inside the passenger compartment. Over the past 15 years, eleven people have died, including two in Texas. More than 180 people have been severely injured. The good news is, the repair is FREE.

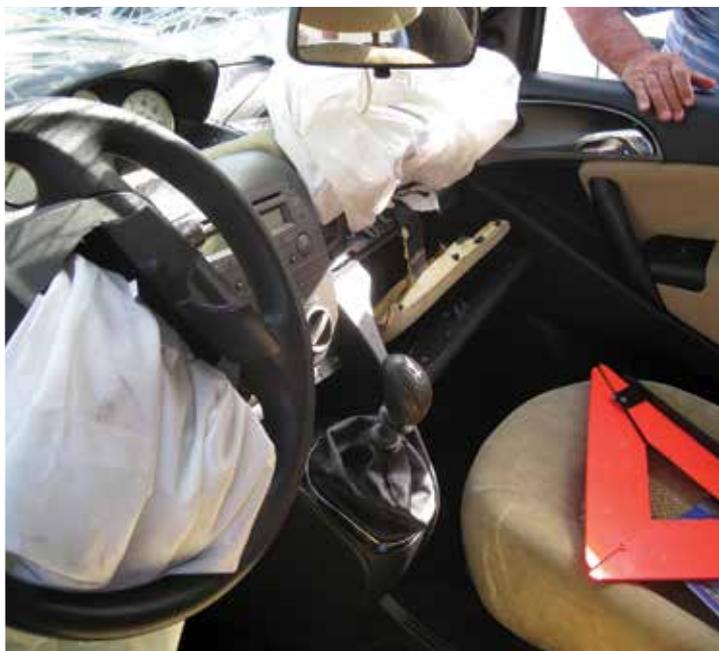
A nationwide recall of these defective parts – the largest safety recall in U.S. history – includes millions of vehicles made by 19 different automakers. The defect is made worse by prolonged exposure to heat and humidity. That makes North Texas one of the highest-risk areas in the country.

Protect your family by visiting AirbagRecall.com to check your risk. If you are affected, contact your nearest auto dealer to schedule a free repair. Parts are currently available for the highest-risk vehicles, including:

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- 2003 Acura CL
- 2003 Honda Pilot

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Dedicated People Create Positive Change at Community Court



by Carol Chilton

Heraclitus, the Greek philosopher, is credited with saying, “Change is the only constant in life.” For the citizens of East Dallas, change has been positive, thanks to the opening of the Northeast Community Court (NECC) in September 2016, with Amanda Chase as Community Prosecutor, continuing work she began four years earlier in that same role in another area of Dallas.

Change again occurred in November when Ms. Chase announced her resignation due to her husband’s job offer in St. Louis. Jason Mathis, Deputy Chief of Community Prosecution and Community Courts of the Dallas City Attorney’s Office, speaks very highly of the positive impact Amanda made during her tenure. Knowing that the root cause of homelessness is directly tied to unemployment, Ms. Chase started her own job fair. As many as 200 employers attracted 600 to 700 job seekers with 300 hired on the spot, including those with prior



Amanda Chase on NBC 5.

criminal records hired by “second chance” employers. Per Deputy Chief Mathis, Ms. Chase also worked to instill in managers a sense of pride in their multi-tenant properties, which created a ripple effect to the tenants as well. Ms. Chase became well-known in the community by attending neighborhood meetings. As is often the case of someone

who has so passionately and competently served, her position is difficult to fill.

“The Northeast Community Court has grown exceptionally,” remarked Deputy Chief Mathis. As the number of clients/defendants has steadily increased, the court has become fully staffed; Judge Gonzales presides and two prosecutors alternate days on the court. Community service hours determined by the court include: litter pick-up, beautification, tree planting and help with homes and properties of senior citizens. All work benefits the Northeast Dallas community. One of the remarkable benefits of the NECC as stated by Deputy Chief Mathis is “...providing the opportunity for strangers to work together.” Understanding one another’s problems leads to solving them.

As those of us in the East Dallas community enjoy the positive changes occurring due to the important work of the NECC, we applaud the dedicated individuals making our community better.



Community Court service hours were logged at FRI’s Operation Beautification.

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A Record Number of Volunteers Made Operation Beautification a Success



by Vikki J. Martin, President, Ferguson Road Initiative

This year's Operation Beautification Litter Cleanup attracted 225 volunteers, the largest turnout ever. On March 4, everyone convened in the parking lot of FRI's key partner, Walgreens at Lakeland and Ferguson, to show our community a little love. The volunteers spent three hours making Far East Dallas a better place to live and

work. Eleven schools, eleven neighborhoods, three apartments, seven businesses, two service organizations and White Rock Hills Library teamed up, pitched in and cleaned up.

Areas of our community targeted by the Operation Beautification spring event included:

- Ferguson from I-30 to Buckner
- Highland from San Raphael to St. Francis
- Lakeland from Garland to John West at I-30
- Buckner from I-30 to Peavy
- Ferguson at Cotillion (near 635)
- Bayles Elementary School, 2444 Telegraph
- Valley Glen Drive
- Gross Road from Peavy to La Prada

Sponsors of the event included Councilmembers Tiffinni A. Young, District 7, and Mark Clayton, District 9, as well as State Rep. Eric Johnson, District 100, our partnership with the City of Dallas, Dallas Police Department, Walgreens and our friends at Elliott's Hardware, Ferguson Donuts, For the Love of the Lake, McDonald's, Resource One Credit Union and Signage Systems.

The Ferguson Road Initiative is indebted to Young Chevrolet, a FRI Founder's Circle member, who underwrote the event. And the volunteers didn't go hungry, thanks to Bob and Cindy Lucero at McDonald's, Ferguson Donuts and Resource One Credit Union.

When asked why they came out for Operation Beautification, most volunteers said they wanted to be a good neighbor and to meet others

in the community. Pablo from the Skyline High School National Honor Society said, "I came here to collect my community service hours but was impressed by the fact that everyone was helping."

Those who were unable to join in Operation Beautification this year are invited to join the cleanup next spring. To be notified, sign up for the FRI monthly email *NewsFlash* at www.fergusonroad.org.

Photo to the right. Bob and Cindy Lucero with McDonald's provided breakfast goodies and coffee.



Headmaster Roger Perry (right) celebrates with community service volunteers from Lakehill Preparatory School along Ferguson Road near their Athletic Campus.



Photo to the right: Jayme Carter, sales associate with Young Chevrolet (far left), proudly volunteered along with The Episcopal School of Dallas National Honor Society, one of many groups that joined our Litter Cleanup Event.



East Dallas Networking Donates to Ferguson Road Initiative



by Kim Schlossberg

Every week, 60 to 65 business people meet for lunch and camaraderie, but that's not all. East Dallas Networking (EDN), a business networking and community advocacy group, meets every Thursday from noon to one at Highland Park Cafeteria to build and strengthen business relationships and offer support to the community.

"EDN was born of a 'live local' mindset. EDN is committed to helping our local community, East Dallas, thrive. We're proud of what we've become, and we look forward to continuing our support of local organizations that take care of our friends and neighbors in need," said Dr. Chuck Kobdich, East Dallas Networking Co-Founder.

On January 5, EDN's members donated \$5,700 to six local organizations that support important East Dallas causes: White Rock Center of Hope (\$2,100), Alex Sanger Elementary PTA Save the Campout Campaign (\$1,500), Promise of Peace Community Garden (\$1,000), Epiphany Dance Arts/EDN Artistic Outreach (\$500), Ferguson Road Initiative (\$500), and C.C. Young Benevolence Fund (\$100).

Since 2010, EDN has donated \$24,500 to community nonprofits, working hard to make East Dallas a better place to live, work and play. EDN members nominate and vote on organizations from among organizations they are personally involved with and support.

"The Ferguson Road Initiative depends upon support from individuals and organizations like East Dallas Networking. We greatly appreciate the contribution made on behalf of all the members of EDN, and we will put it to good use in the community," said Bill Coleman, Ferguson Road Initiative board member.

For more information, please visit www.meetup.com/East-Dallas-Networking.



Vikki J. Martin, president of FRI, with FRI Advisory Council member Liz Renfro at the East Dallas Networking weekly luncheon held at Highland Park Cafeteria.



Pictured L-R: Dr. Chuck Kobdich – East Dallas Networking (EDN), Elizabeth Dry – Promise of Peace Community Garden, Mark Weber – EDN, Naomi Cabrera and Patty Bates-Ballard – Alex Sanger Elementary PTA, Kimberly Humphries – White Rock Center of Hope, Michael DeGroat – Epiphany Dance Arts, Bill Coleman – Ferguson Road Initiative, and Jesse Simmons – EDN. © Fernando Ferny, Feel Da Flow Photography



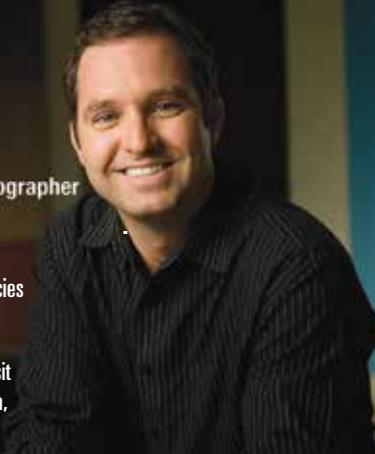
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Long-Proposed Pavilion Proceeds as Planned



by Vikki J. Martin, President, Ferguson Road Initiative

Neighbors near Lakeland Hills Park, 2600 St. Francis, celebrated a groundbreaking for the construction of a pavilion and parking lot on Saturday, March 25. A part of the long-term plans developed over ten years ago, the project is funded by the 2006 Bond Program.

Lakeland Hills Park, once considered one of the worst parks in the city, has a skate park that area teens have been enjoying since 2007, thanks to the efforts of dedicated leaders of White Rock Village, Lakeland Hills, Hillridge and Claremont neighborhoods. Construction of the pavilion and parking lot will begin in April of this year and should be completed by fall.



Sean Johnson, District 7 Dallas Park and Recreation Board (DPRB) appointee and vice president of the of (DPRB), Tiffinni A. Young, Dallas City Councilperson, District 7, Vikki J. Martin, president, Ferguson Road Initiative and Bobby Abtahi, (DPRB) president.



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Community Connection Founder's Circle

As of February 2017

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 Medical at White Rock Lake

\$5,000 a year for 3 years

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Laura Berry Boeckman

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Bishop Lynch High School
Casa Pacifica Apartments
Debbie Chitsey
Directions
East Dallas Veterinary Clinic

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Trevor and Melissa Fetter
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- 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

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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
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<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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Area Library Events
White Rock Hills Library

A Matter of Balance

Date: Monday, May 1, 2017
Time: 10:30 a.m.
Age(s): Adults, Seniors

SMART: Artful Imaginations

Date: Tuesday, May 2, 2017
Time: 4:00 p.m.
Age(s): Elementary School Age, Teens

Preschool Story Time

Date: Wednesday, May 3, 2017
Time: 10:30 a.m.
Age(s): Pre-School

SMART: Spanish 4Kids

Date: Wednesday, May 3, 2017
Start Time: 4:00 p.m.
Age(s): Elementary School Age, Teens

SMART: Science Live

Date: Thursday, May 4, 2017
Start Time: 4:00 p.m.
Age(s): Elementary School Age, Teens

Chair Yoga

Date: Friday, May 5, 2017
Start Time: 10:30 a.m.
Age(s): Adults, Seniors

Lochwood Library

Baby Basics Story Time

Date: Tuesday, May 2, 2017
Time: 10:30 a.m.
Age(s): Infants and Toddlers

After School - LEGO Challenge

Date: Wednesday, May 3, 2017
Time: 4:15 p.m.
Age(s): Elementary School Age

English Conversation Group

Date: Tuesday, May 2, 2017
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Age(s): Adult

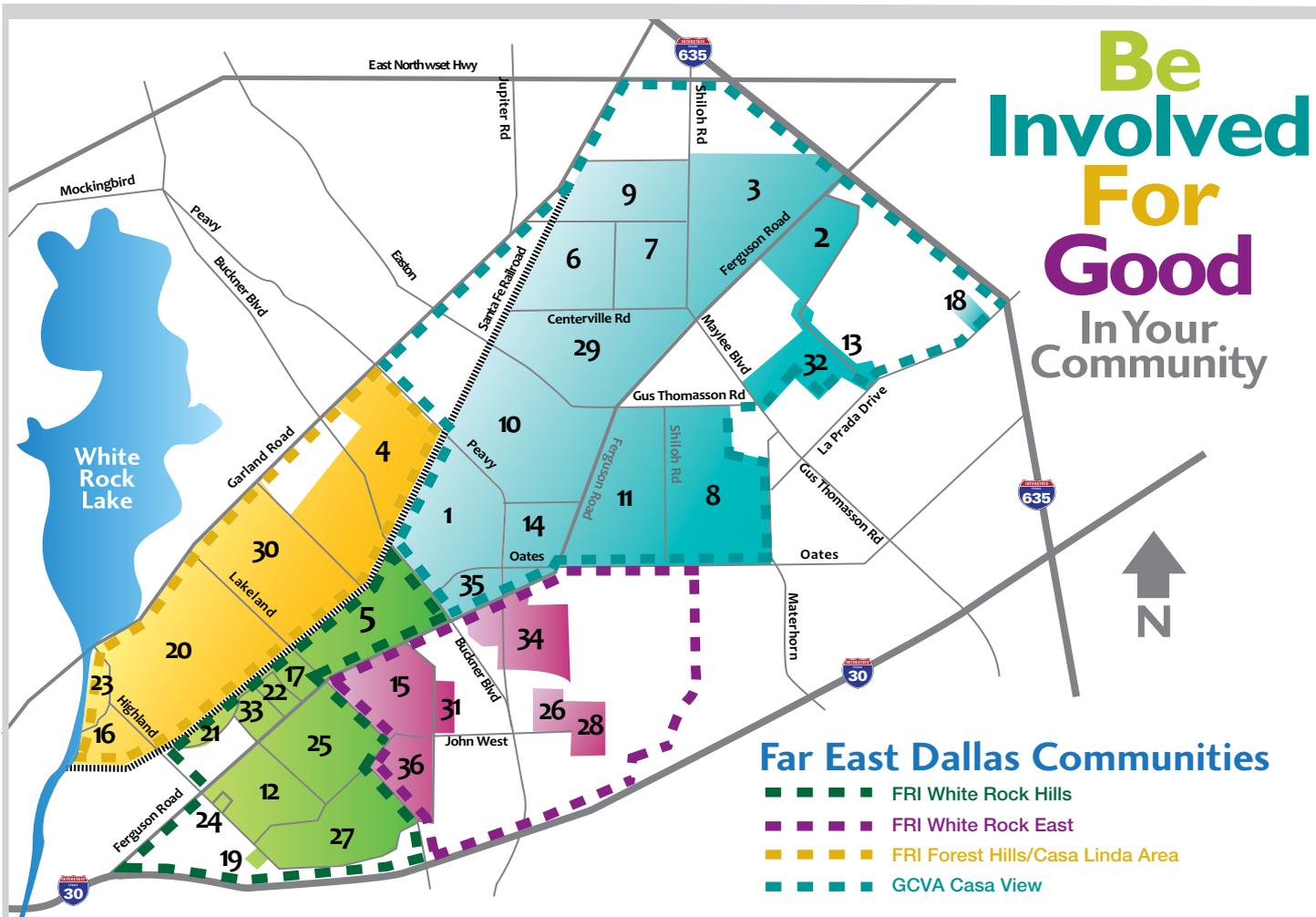
Community Events

FREE Document Shredding

Date: April 29, 2017
Time: 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Location: Resource One Credit Union
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Operation Beautification

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or joe.yanez@dallascityhall.com



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- ■ ■ ■ ■ FRI White Rock East
- ■ ■ ■ ■ FRI Forest Hills/Casa Linda Area
- ■ ■ ■ ■ GCVA Casa View

Use this map and the list below to find your neighborhood and contact your Neighborhood Association (NA), Homeowners Association (HOA), or Crime Watch (CW), and start making a difference in your community today!

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www.crimewatch1153.org
214-967-5191 (Voice mail)
- 2 - Braeburn Glen CW (1132)**
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- 29 - Little Casa View**
ferrismichelle@hotmail.com

- 30 - Little Forest Hills NA**
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jessicayoung@me.com
- 33 - Stonegate at Forest Hills**
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White Rock Church of Christ

Describe White Rock Church of Christ in five words?

Diverse. Loving. Accepting. Faith-Based. Bible-Centered.

What can a guest expect from your church culture?

One thing that is readily evident is friendliness. We are genuinely interested in the people who come visit with us.

What makes your services unique?

The fact that we have two evangelist ministries. We have an English and a Spanish minister, so we cater to two language groups.

What innovation in technology has made the most impact on your life or ministry?

The Internet has been an important technical tool. We use multimedia applications and podcasts. Virtually every tool that will help us communicate the message through technology updates.

Describe some of your youth programs?

The youth is split into two main groups, but there's really three if you count the infant and toddlers: 1st through 5th grade and 6th grade through 12th, grade which is more like your typical youth group. "We do an activity with either or both of those groups to take them somewhere like the zoo or ball park" says associate minister, John Stafford. We have combined devotionals once a month and have a summer camp.

What type of activities are open to children in the community?

Any of our programs are open to the community in the sense of our open outreach.

Tell me about a time when you developed a new team of volunteers into a strong working group. What did you do?

We are in the process of doing that right now with the new Spanish ministry. The Spanish ministry just began here on March the 5th.



Ministers from left to right, Gary Frazier, John Stafford, Albert Serna

It is really bringing a new dynamic for the church. It's very exciting. Everyone is optimistic about the new change!

Are there any noteworthy events coming up to which you would invite new guests in the community?

"On the first Sunday of every month we have a combined fellowship meal where we encourage guests in the community to come," says head minister Gary Frazier. Albert Serna will lead the first Spanish Lectureship on June 2nd and June 3rd.

Any last words about why people should come out to the White Rock Church of Christ?

Minister Frazier says, "We would love to encourage Spanish-speaking members of the community to come and take part." We love to have people come to visit. We love to share our faith, which is scripture-based Bible teachings.



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