

FRIidays

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Fall 2017

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For Good..



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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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ON THE COVER

*FRI*days, cover celebrates the 75th anniversary of the Dallas Independent School District's crossing guard program (DCS). Thank you to Detra Reeves, Guard Manager, DCS Police Department, crossing guards Nichole Smith and Quinton Campbell, the parents and students who participated Dolores and Diana Wolfe, Delorian and Bryson Brown and Ryan Anders, photographer.

FRI FALL Roundup—Updates

White Rock Hills Community Recreation Center (CENTER) and Community Progress



by Vikki J. Martin, President, Ferguson Road Initiative

CENTER Progress

Accelerated Funding Strategy—In working with our elected officials, we have developed a new consensus strategy to accelerate delivery of the CENTER. Rather than waiting on bond funding, which could take five to eight years before funds would be available, we've agreed to take the \$5 million match off the table and focus on funding Phase I of the CENTER project.

A neighborhood park with trail access is planned so the community can enjoy a park now. The CENTER strategy is accelerated by collaborating with our new partner, White Rock United Methodist Church (WRUMC), to fund the community CENTER programs and services in a donated UMC facility through grants and contributions (*see FRI to Partner With WRUMC next column*). This is a win for everyone.

White Rock Hills Neighborhood Park and Iconic Playground —

In 2017, the city of Dallas purchased, relocated residents of and finally demolished the Crestwood Apartments (2131 Highland Road). A second property, the Casa Blanca Village apartments (2165 Highland Road), will be demolished by 2018 and joined with the existing land owned by Dallas Park & Recreation at 2229 Highland Road.

This purchase will enlarge the CENTER site from 3.5 to 7.5 acres of land. With the support of council member Mark Clayton and FRI's advocacy, the city has committed to build a neighborhood park on a portion of the CENTER site immediately. The park is expected to be completed by the end of 2018.

The White Rock Hills Park will be Phase I of the CENTER project and represents significant progress toward our goal of community revitalization. The site will feature a walkable park, a 0.25-mile walking trail loop and future access to the trail system, an iconic playground and adaptable athletic practice fields. The practice fields will serve as a placeholder until an urban farm plan is developed and built. White Rock Hills Park will also connect to a trail system, which will link the park to the White Rock Creek (south) and the Trinity Forest Spine trails.

Mr. Clayton has also designated \$200,000 on the 2017 Bond Program to pay for design and construction documents for the CENTER. The completion of these design and construction

documents will be the next step before launching a capital campaign to build the \$35 million facility.

FRI to Partner With WRUMC to Create Owenwood Community Center

FRI has been presented with a phenomenal opportunity. White Rock United Methodist Church has invited FRI to partner with it to help transform the former Owenwood United Methodist Church building (1451 John West Road) into a community center.

This 30,000-square-foot building is located on 6 acres of land. Strategic nonprofit organizations will provide programs and services to meet the community's dire need for food insecurity programs and others such as early childhood education, reading, senior services, financial literacy, arts and more. We are joining WRUMC in providing the leadership that will bring the needed nonprofit agencies together and help charter new agencies as we plan. An urban farm partner, GROW North Texas, has been secured. This project will address the immediate needs of the Far East Dallas area.

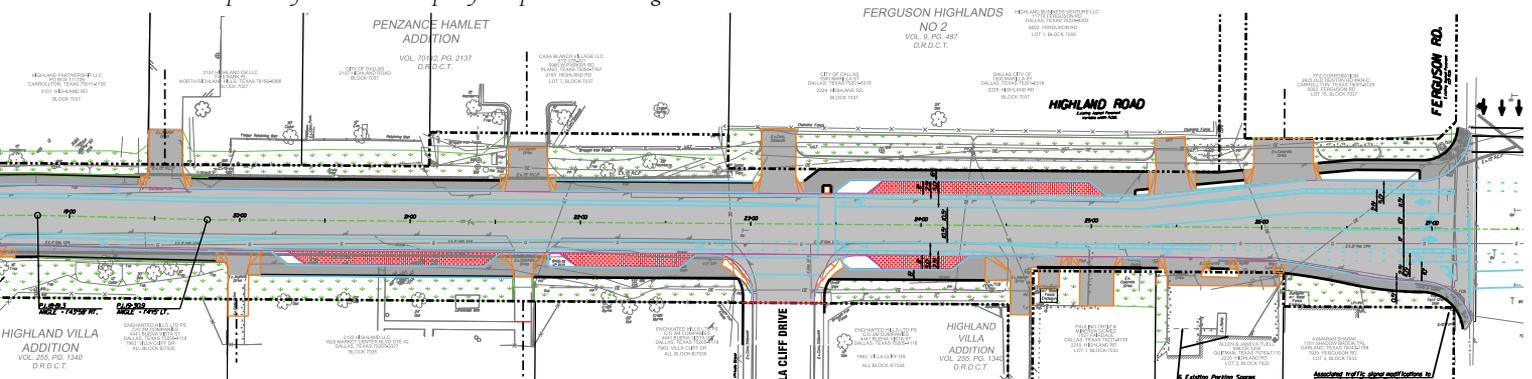
Planning Session With Dallas County Community College District

Dallas County Community College District has agreed to facilitate a meeting with experts in economic development, education and youth development to create a multiyear road map to engage educational institutions and nonprofit service providers with FRI. The DCCCD will help us identify program partners and operational and financial needs. By moving forward and developing needed programs and services now, when our CENTER is built, the programs at Owenwood can easily be expanded and moved into the CENTER.

Community Progress

Community Infrastructure—The \$3.6 million Highland Road reconstruction begins soon from Ferguson Road to the Santa Fe Railroad tracks. This project will include sidewalks, storm sewers, curbing and a bicycle path, which will eventually tie into the city trail system. The renovation will be a continuation of the 2005 improvements to Highland Road from Jim Miller Road to Ferguson Road. The city construction contract is expected to be awarded by the end of the year. Replacement bridges on Lakeland Drive at Ash Creek and South Fork Creek will include paving, storm drainage and water /wastewater improvements. The street project was approved in 2006. Construction is scheduled to begin this fall and will continue through the summer of 2018.

Pictured below is a portion of the construction plan for improvements to Highland Road.





The halls of Uplift White Rock Hills Preparatory school are ready for students to fill them with life and learning.

Uplift White Rock Hills Preparatory Elementary School—A

\$6 million Uplift White Rock Hills Preparatory charter school at the corner of Ferguson Road and Interstate 30 opened in August. The school serves as a visible and beautiful gateway into the lower Ferguson Road corridor. FRI was instrumental in helping Uplift obtain community support and a zoning change for this project after holding a public meeting and providing advocacy and community education to ensure support of the project.

The opening of this school is the *Weed & Seed* story. FRI weeded the crime from this area by shutting down an old abandoned motel-turned-crime-magnet in 2000. We seeded the area through advocacy and action to have the city demolish it in 2002. With the opening of Uplift school, an education facility will sit where once there were weeds and crime.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance—This spring, FRI provided the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program to 1,366 low-income families and returned more than \$2.5 million in refunds. This year marks the 12th year of VITA services, making a grand total of \$16.3 million in total refunds.

FRI continues to strategically adapt to changing politics at City Hall. Though disappointed that CENTER funding will be postponed again until the next bond program, the progress toward our vision, and its implementation thus far, is encouraging. Our new partnership with WRUMC and the development of a community center is exactly what has made FRI so powerful. We don't wait for others to solve our community problems. We keep working toward solutions that benefit everyone.

Below, the Owenwood United Methodist Church building is to be repurposed to house community center programs long envisioned by the community in planning for the CENTER.



North Texas Giving Day—\$15,000 Call-To-Action Challenge by McDonald's and FRI Supporters

Sept. 14, 2017, from 6 a.m. to midnight Ferguson Road Initiative (FRI) will participate in North Texas Giving Day. This is an annual online giving event that ignites the spirit of giving to nonprofits. This year FRI's campaign slogan is *Give for Good: of Your Time, Talent & Treasure*.

In 2016, FRI held its first challenge/match campaign and increased total giving from 2015 by more than 300 percent. We raised more than \$25,000. This year's goal is \$30,000. FRI is confident the community can rise to this challenge. Our special friends, Tina and Gary Millican, kicked off our campaign with a \$1,000 pledge, and AmeriSouth Realty, Residential ReServices LLC and Ken Benson & Associates joined them. Our loyal friends at McDonald's, became our lead donors with another \$5,000 contribution. We are off and running and are optimistic that by the time you receive this *FRI*days, we will have raised \$15,000 in challenge grants. In the spirit of giving, we want you to help us match this amount on September 14.

For the first time, donors will be able to make their online gifts to FRI in advance anytime between Sept. 7 and 13. Your credit card payment will be processed on Sept. 14.

If you want to give in person, you can join us between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 14, at our donation station in McDonald's at 8117 E. R.L. Thornton Freeway (Jim Miller Road and Interstate 30) for refreshments and fellowship. If you need help making your online donation, we will be there to help.

Football Hall of Fame champion Mel Renfro, will be on hand from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Your credit card gift to FRI on North Texas Giving Day is a community investment that goes directly to providing visionary leadership, facilitating community connection and communication, and supporting advocacy for Far East Dallas.

On Sept. 14, get up and give from 6:00 a.m. – midnight. Help FRI meet this year's \$30,000 challenge.

"Wow! The progress that FRI continues to make is very impressive. Kudos to FRI for your continued leadership and sense of urgency to keep the important projects in your community moving forward. We appreciate you keeping us in the loop!"

Monica Egert-Smith, Chief Relationship Officer, Communities Foundation of Texas, July 17, 2017.



Bob Lucero, and McDonald's owner, Larry Ingram, at NTGD 2016. Thank you.

Come See Who Gives for Good in the Community



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

In anticipation of North Texas Giving Day (NTGD), Ferguson Road Initiative (FRI) will host a Volunteer/Nonprofit Fair immediately before our regular Town Hall meeting. Our slogan for the NTGD campaign is *Give for Good ... of Your Time, Talent & Treasure*. We want to share the good

work of some of our nonprofits servicing the Far East Dallas area. You can learn more about what these hardworking agencies do, how you can volunteer and get involved and how you can help these agencies during NTGD.

Come meet and learn about these fine nonprofits working in our neighborhood:

- Aberg Center for Literacy
- Angie's Friends
- C.C. Young Senior Care
- Directions Recovery Community
- Ferguson Road Initiative
- For the Love of the Lake
- GROW North Texas
- Heroes House
- Hope Supply Co.
- Lakehill Preparatory School
- Lone Star Credit Union
- The Magdalen House
- Mission East Dallas
- New Horizons of North Texas
- Nexus Recovery
- Reading Partners
- Resource One Credit Union
- Senior Source
- Transformance
- Uplift White Rock Hills Preparatory
- White Rock Center of Hope
- White Rock Hills Library Friends



Left, Gary Hasty and Sonya Ellington of Heroes House volunteer to clean up the community. Bottom left, Reading Partners. Right, Janet Burgess and Max Davis attend to the Love of the Lake booth at White Rock Hills Library fifth birthday celebration. Bottom right, White Rock Center of Hope clothing rack.



FRI Town Hall

Join us for our twice-a-year FRI Community Connection Town Hall meeting from 6:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 11, at White Rock Church of Christ Fellowship Hall, 9220 Ferguson Road.

Here is the agenda:

- 6:00-7:00 p.m. Volunteer/Nonprofit Fair
- 7:00-7:20 p.m. Know Your Nonprofits
- 7:20-7:50 p.m. FRI Community Updates
- 7:50-8:00 p.m. North Texas Giving Day
- 8:00-8:10 p.m. Raffle
- 8:10-8:30 p.m. Visit Your Favorite Nonprofit

View the FRI NTGD Video at: www.fergusonroad.org/about/videos/

Or to view on your smart phone, scan the QR code below.



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Build a Better World at White Rock Hills Library



by Carol Ann Ravert

Dallas public libraries are much more than they used to be. White Rock Hills Library (WRHL) is a center for community activities and services with diverse programming for all ages. Some of the services it offers are bilingual.

Having celebrated five years of serving families and the community, the library continues to expand its outreach. When branch manager Natalie McAdams was asked what makes WRHL special, she readily replied: “*This library is not just books. It is a collaborative space where people connect with ideas and each other to make their lives and their community better.*” McAdams continued with information about the library’s programs, services and resources.

The successful WRHL branch:

- Checks out/in 3,000 to 4,000 items every day
- Has the highest retention rate for English as a Second Language classes in the Dallas library system
- Provided free lunches for 25 to 40 children each day in the 2017 summer lunch program
- Had a marked rise in number of participants, especially in adult programs, such as genealogy and computer coding classes
- Benefits from 15 to 35 volunteer hours weekly

Programs and activities

Below is just a sampling of programs available on a plethora of interests. Every program is free and open to the public.

Ongoing programs include:

- Preschool Storytime
- Bilingual-Spanish Storytime (Hora de Cuentos)
- Computer Coding (*made possible through a grant from Ferguson Road Initiative and WRHL Friends*)
- Travel—learn about a different country each week

Below, Storytelling by Peggy and Gene Helmick-Richardson at the recent WRHL birthday celebration.



- Yoga classes
- Film Club and Book Club
- Wii Game Nights
- Teens Anime Club
- Genealogy
- Programs for Older Adults
- Special Events

For additional programs and schedules, contact the librarians, see the printed monthly calendar or go to the website at:

dallaslibrary2.org/branch/whiterock.php.

Computer resources available

Librarians will assist you with learning to use a computer to access information. You may be asked to schedule a time if you desire lengthy assistance. The vast number of computer programs includes:

- Adult Learning Center
- ALLDATA Online
- America’s Genealogy Bank
- Homework Help Now—major subjects, including languages, writing lab, test center for SAT, ACT, GED
- Job Now—résumé writing and interview coaching
- Texas legal forms
- Lynda.com (over 3,000 courses including over 130,000 videos)
- ReferenceUSA (Access to a database of millions of business records)
- Zinio—50 magazines

Ways you can give your time, talent and treasure:

- Volunteer to teach life skills, crafts, hobbies, science, etc. Librarians are eager to know how you would like to help.
- Serve on the WRHL Friends Board.
- Lead or assist with programming.
- Volunteer for the Holiday Book Giveaway on Dec. 16 at 10 a.m. Santa will read “The Night Before Christmas,” and there will be crafts for children of all ages Provided by WRHL Friends.
- Become a supporting member of WRHL Friends, which provides additional support and programs.

WRHL Friends

Laura Whitter, membership and fundraiser director of WRHL Friends, wants the community to know: “*We need your help by becoming members and volunteers to continue the good work we’ve begun. The staff at WRHL are the best.*” You can become a member by contacting: programs@wrhlf.org, ask for a membership brochure at the checkout counter at the library, or at facebook.com/whiterockhillslibraryfriends.

Getting there

Although the WRHL address is 9150 Ferguson Road, between Buckner Boulevard. and Lakeland Drive, the library is actually behind the White Rock Church of Christ. “*I love turning off busy Ferguson Road onto the peaceful, meandering driveway that leads to the library. The technology area and book stacks face out and overlook Ash Creek. The effect is almost like being in a tree house. The way the light filters in from the trees offers a sense of solace and is a perfect place to curl up and read a book.*” Vikki J. Martin, Ferguson Road Initiative



Chair yoga teacher Mara Black leads class.

Intersection Improvements to Kick Off Big Changes in Casa View



by Mike Nurre

As street construction along Gus Thomasson Road at Ferguson Road ramps up near the Casa View Shopping Center, residents can take comfort in knowing that the temporary inconvenience is the first step toward big changes for the beloved shopping center. And, if all goes as planned, the center may be under new ownership this fall as well.

In mid-July, Casa View Shopping Center owner Waymon Levell and property manager Debbie Hobbs called a tenants' meeting to announce that the property is under contract with a local investor. The deal is expected to close in September or October. As part of the agreement, both the new owner and the city of Dallas will honor all terms of the existing public-private partnership, which include the following improvements to the original structure at the northwest corner of Gus Thomasson and Ferguson roads.

- Improving street, sidewalk, and landscaping/median
- Widening all approaches to the center
- Renovating hardscape and landscape in courtyard area
- Replacing soffits and installing new lighting
- Replacing CasaView sign, plus new multitenant signs
- Retaining and repairing architectural features, such as metal posts
- Repairing or replacing storefront sidewalks
- Repaving, reconfiguring and restriping the parking lot
- Installing landscaped areas and irrigation in the current parking lot
- Creating a pedestrian-access plaza

The street improvements will take place first, followed by a staggered rollout of other elements over a period of three years to minimize the impact to tenants and customers. These improvements align with the Greater Casa View Area Plan, which was formally adopted by the Dallas City Council in 2016.

A Neighborhood on the Rise—While the median price for existing homes has gone up throughout Dallas by an average of 9 percent in recent months, the Casa View area has experienced an uptick of closer to 11 percent. And in some pockets, such as Ash Creek/Alger Park or our midcentury modern enclaves of Cliff May homes, prices are up nearly 15 percent. Northeast Dallas was also mentioned by longtime *Dallas Morning News* real estate editor Steve Brown as an area where buyers can still find homes priced below the area median—even with our greater percentage-based gains.

Supporting Our First Responders—GCVA was proud to show our support for first responders by displaying “Honor Our Heroes” banners from May through early July. On a related note, GCVA board member Paul Bennett, president of the Braeburn Glen Neighborhood Association, was named Volunteer of the Year for the entire Northeast Division of the Dallas Police Department. We're proud to be a part of a community where people are working together to continue enhancing the quality of life.



The Greater Casa View Alliance shows support for first responders.

What's Next for GCVA?—With the proceeds from its highly successful Cliff May Home Tour in 2016, GCVA has begun the process of obtaining our status as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. This will enable us to apply for grants and pursue new avenues to keep the positive momentum going in the Casa View community. What are some of the initiatives you'd like to see in your corner of Casa View? Like us on Facebook, and let us know.

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.greatercasaview.org.



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Community VIPs Give Their Time for Good



by Mari L. Madison

Cheers to the residents in the Far East Dallas community who volunteer their time to support the Dallas Police Department Northeast Division (DPDND) as Volunteers In Patrol (VIP). The DPD's 25-year community partnership program recently named winners of four categories for the annual *Darrell Wood Northeast Division Volunteer of the Year Award*.

The recipients were announced at the *Taste of NE* event on Tuesday, April 18, 2017, at Highland Oaks Church of Christ.

Named co-Volunteers of the Year were Far East Dallas resident Paul Bennett, president of the Braeburn Glen Neighborhood Association, and Dallas D. Dupre IV of the Chimney Hill Neighborhood Association in Northeast Dallas. Mr. Bennett is also an executive board member of the Greater Casa View Alliance. "This year DPD felt strongly that these two men were most deserving due to their dedication to their communities," Bervin Smith, Senior Corporal, DPDND, said. During 2016, Mr. Bennett spent 1,060 hours volunteering with VIP and Crime Watch activities in Braeburn Glen. "My wife and I have invested much in our part of the world and really do want to make a positive difference," Bennett said as he received the award.

VIP is an important aspect of the success of DPD's strategy of community policing—for which Dallas received national recognition in an article titled "How the Dallas Police Department Reformed Itself" in the June 9, 2016, issue of *The Atlantic*. The magazine praised Dallas for becoming "... a national symbol of community policing." The author noted that



DPD officers Kevin Kelley, NPO Admin. & VIP Coordinator and B. A. Rippey enjoy the celebration with Paul Bennett.

"2014 saw the lowest Dallas murder rate since 1930."

The DPD provides two ways for citizens to take action and calm their fears about crime. Both have the goal of increasing civilians' understanding of police work and developing effective police/community partnerships.

First is the **Citizen's Academy**, an eight-week course given by police officers that will increase a resident's knowledge of how the various areas of the Dallas Police Department operate.

To learn more, visit www.dallaspolice.net/communitys/citizensacademy.

The second are the **Volunteer Programs**, where residents are trained to become a part of the solution through:

- Volunteers in Patrol
- Citizens Offering Police Support
- Crime Watch Executive Board
- Community Emergency Response Team
- Dallas Police Reserve Battalion

All volunteers must attend the required training course for each desired program. To learn more, visit: www.dallaspolice.net/communitys/volunteerprogram.

Most training classes are offered at the seven substations, usually last between two to four hours and are nonconfrontational. All citizens who



Paul Bennett

wish to participate in any of the Dallas Police volunteer programs must meet the following requirements:

- Must be at least 21 years old
- Must possess a valid state-issued driver's license or identification card
- Must fill out an application prior to volunteering
- Must pass a criminal history check
 - No felony convictions
 - No misdemeanor convictions within five years of applying to volunteer
 - No DWI convictions within 10 years of applying to volunteer

"Ferguson Road Initiative's original focus in 1998 was to weed out crime on the lower end of Ferguson Road. We could not be more pleased to see how these efforts have organically spread all the way up to LBJ Freeway," said Vikki J Martin, President of FRI.



Discovering the Strength of Dallas ISD



by Dan Micciche, DISD board president,
District 3-Northeast Dallas representative

I am convinced that the 2016-2017 school year will long be remembered as one of the most prolific periods in Dallas Independent School District history. For it was this year we discovered what we could become if we dared to innovate and step beyond the traditional. It has been a year like

no other, in which we have challenged ourselves to envision the “what ifs” and bring them out of the shadows into fruition to provide extraordinary possibilities for every student we serve. The results have been quite remarkable, and students are the benefactors.

Dallas ISD closed the 2016-2017 year with all seven of its new collegiate academies, launched in August 2016, earning designation by the Texas Education Agency as early college high schools. Ten more early college high school programs launched on August, 28 setting the stage to change the lives of students in hugely impactful ways.

Thousands of students enrolled in these programs can leave high school with a two-year college degree at no cost to them. It is an incredible boost for any student and, especially, for many first-generation college students taking advantage of this program, thanks to the Dallas County Community College District and the many industry partners who have joined with Dallas ISD to make this happen.

Dallas ISD also focused on reaching students at the earliest ages to get them on track and prepared for kindergarten, because students who are prepared to succeed in kindergarten have a better chance at school success throughout their lifetimes. Expanded three- and four-year-old, free and tuition-based programs, give more students that opportunity.

In Far East Dallas, we have seen significant gains in student achievement at S.S. Conner, Bayles and George W. Truett elementary schools. One of the most exciting things that can happen at a school is to see rising scores and increased student achievement, especially after a persistent push to overcome challenges.

S.S. Conner serves nearly 700 students in pre-K to grade five, and after years of being considered an Improvement Required school, the entire campus is bustling with pride at the recent turnaround.

The improvements can be seen in the school’s positive climate survey results, which rose above the district-wide results in almost every category including an increase of 19 percent in the Positive Culture and Environment. The school can be most proud of the academic gains students have shown. Over 75 percent of the students had double-digit gains on district tests. The atmosphere at Conner is electric with excitement and pride in what students, teachers and administrators have accomplished together.

Congratulations also to the students, teachers, staff and volunteers at Truett Elementary for their outstanding improvement in science, doubling the previous year’s state scores and reaching a level worthy of distinction.

Bayles Elementary continues to thrive. In addition to making significant academic gains, the school’s dual language program, robotics, vegetable garden and social and emotional learning program have created a culture of enthusiasm for learning.



Clockwise Dan Micciche, Vikki J. Martin, John and Ellen Childress and Kerry Goodwin at the George W. Truett Elementary School ribbon cutting; photo courtesy of Dallas ISD.



Bryan Adams High School students won third place in the Destination Imagination Global Competition held in Tennessee. photo courtesy of Dallas ISD.

Bayles School, Then and Now



by Gary Lawler

The importance of education has deep roots in the families of Far East Dallas. What we now know as Bayles Elementary School (Bayles) takes its name from one of the first schools formed in Dallas County.

As early as 1856, a one-room school, originally named Hunnicutt School, was located on what would become Samuell Boulevard. The school was started by W.C. Hunnicutt. Early students included the Hunnicutt, Ferguson, Rupard and Motley families, who provided the teacher's \$6.07 salary. Fourteen years later, in 1870, a team of mules moved the wood-framed structure to a location near the Bayles home. At this time it was renamed Bayles School.

The school's namesake is likely the same Mr. Bayles who managed the Ferguson Dairy on Samuell Boulevard and sold a 44-four-acre tract of land around 1880 to the founder of the original Buckner Baptist Children's Home.

Plans to abolish the school in 1928 inspired teacher Mrs. D.C. Motley to meet the challenge of finding the 16 new students needed for the school to remain open. She made tables and chairs from milk crates and brought a big can of milk every day from her farm for the students' lunches.

Not only did she salvage the school, she led her students in activities that made the newspapers. For example, the pupils went beyond history books in their study of wars, writing to ambassadors and students in other lands for information. They used what they gathered and built a panorama of a battlefield complete with soldiers and flags.

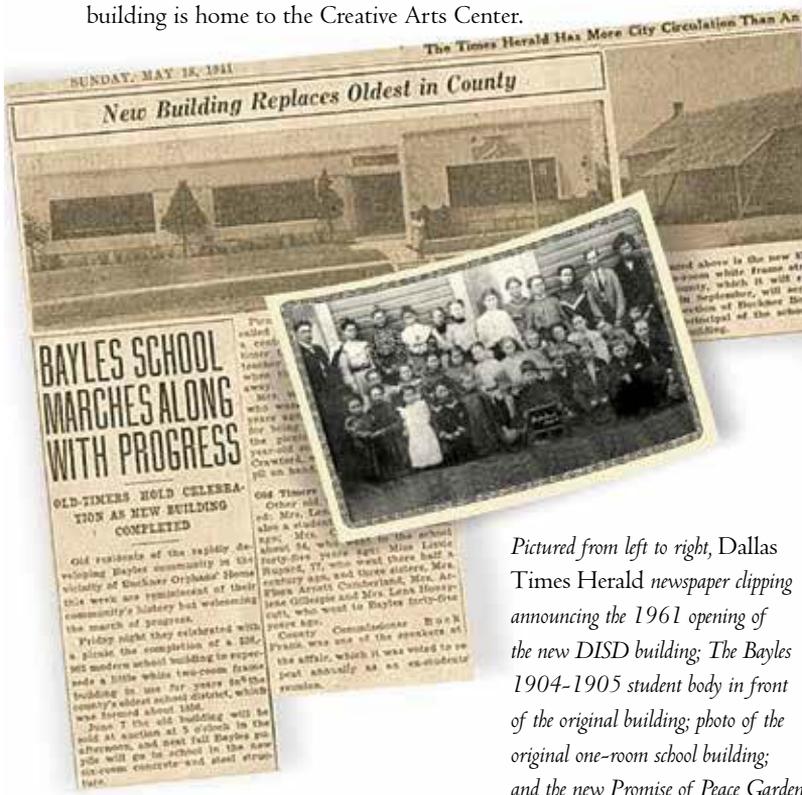
In 1941, a modern \$36,965 school building was completed at 2360 Laughlin Drive, which housed the school for 20 years. Currently the building is home to the Creative Arts Center.

The Bayles Community School District was annexed by the Dallas Independent School District in August 1945. Bayles moved into its present location at 2444 Telegraph Avenue in 1961—the height of the baby boom.

Today, Bayles continues Mrs. Motley's determination and innovation by developing partnerships with community organizations, such as the Ferguson Road Initiative and the Claremont Addition Neighborhood Association. These connections keep students engaged, supported and challenged in all areas of life. For example, consider the beautiful new Promise of Peace garden. There, young scholars work side by side with volunteers, including students from Bryan Adams High School and Southern Methodist University, to water, weed and learn how things grow.

"Bayles can connect us and shine a light on all of the positive aspects of this beautiful community," said Elizabeth Dry, founding executive director of the Promise of Peace Gardens.

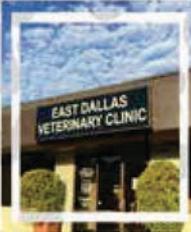
All the effort has made a difference. Over the past three years, Bayles has shown consistent improvement in its State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR) scores in the areas of reading, writing and mathematics. As the saying goes, it takes a village to raise a child.



Pictured from left to right, Dallas Times Herald newspaper clipping announcing the 1961 opening of the new DISD building; The Bayles 1904-1905 student body in front of the original building; photo of the original one-room school building; and the new Promise of Peace Garden observation pathway.

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Far East Dallas Has School Choice



by Emily Nickles

When it comes to the issue of school choice, Far East Dallas has offered parents and students various options for over 50 years. Today the area is home to 16 schools—a mix of public, parochial, private and charter education for grades K-12,

The area's public school feeder system of elementary, middle and high schools was established in the mid-1950s. Community support for public schools remains high. Bryan Adams High School awarded 2017 seniors over \$10,000,000 in merit-based scholarships. Public education is provided by the state, funded through taxes. Public schools must meet state requirements to receive funding, resulting in standardized education.

Six short years later, as the area developed, the Bishop Lynch private parochial school system was established in 1963. Bishop Lynch is currently the largest Catholic college preparatory school in Texas. With a class ratio of 12-to-1, lower than the national average, individualized attention is a specialty.

Both parochial and private schools charge tuition—they do not receive public funding as private institutions. They also have more freedom for specialization of curriculum than public schools. Lakehill Preparatory School at the Roger L. Perry Athletic Campus was established in 2001 and houses two, state-of-the-art student facilities: the Warrior Athletic Complex and the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)-certified Alice and Erle Nye Family Environmental Science Center.

The recent opening of Uplift White Rock Hills Preparatory, a charter school, brings further education options to our community. Parents can learn more about all the school options in Far East Dallas below. Area schools and their Websites:

Public Schools Elementary—PK-5

Bayles Elementary School
www.dallasisd.org/bayles

Casa View Elementary School
www.dallasisd.org/casaview

S.S. Conner Elementary School
www.dallasisd.org/conner

Charles A. Gill Elementary School
www.dallasisd.org/gill

Edwin J. Kiest Elementary School
www.dallasisd.org/domain/536

Reinhardt Elementary School
www.dallasisd.org/domain/1914

Alex Sanger Elementary School
www.dallasisd.org/domain/944

George W. Truett Elementary School
www.dallasisd.org/domain/607

Middle Schools—6-8

W.H. Gaston Middle School
www.dallasisd.org/gaston



New library ribbon cutting at Casa View Elementary.



S.S. Conner Elementary Green Team.



Alex Sanger Elementary School dual language program.

Harold W. Lang Sr. Middle School
www.dallasisd.org/Page/2023

High Schools—9-12

Bryan Adams High School
www.dallasisd.org/bryanadams



Bryan Adams High School 2017 seniors.

Parochial Schools

St. Pius X Catholic School
K-8th grade
www.spkdallasschool.org

St. Bernard of Clairvaux Catholic School
Pre-K-8th grade
www.stbernardccs.org

Bishop Lynch High School
9-12 grade
www.bishoplynch.org



St. Pius X Catholic school students.

Private School

Lakehill Preparatory School:
Roger L. Perry Athletic Campus
K-4, 5-8 and 9-12 grades
www.lakehillprep.org



Lakehill Preparatory School students.

Charter School

Uplift White Rock Hills Preparatory
PreK-2nd grade
www.uplifteducation.org/domain/3186



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October 3, 2017
December 6, 2017
9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Lower School Preview

November 2, 2017
9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Middle School Preview

November 8, 2018
9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Upper School Preview

November 28, 2017
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

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February 2, 2018
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School Crossing Guards Teach Children to Look Both Ways



by Erin Marissa Russell

Cars zip past—blurs and metallic growling engines. The busy street is all that stands between a group of children and the building where they learn the skills they'll need to be successful.

A boy, 10 or 11 years old, looks up at Dallas Independent School District (DISD) crossing guard R.L. Harris. "Mister, you need me to help

you cross?" he asked. "No, son, I'm here to help you cross," Mr. Harris said.

People tend to think being a crossing guard is easy, DISD crossing guard manager Detra Reeves said. In reality, it's anything but, "especially if you're out there walking a complex intersection," she explained. "Children coming from every direction, trying to watch the signal lights, the traffic—make sure you stay safe and they stay safe as well."

For 75 years, crossing guards have helped Dallas students travel safely to school. The city currently employs 368 guards, with 404 authorized intersections total. Management is hiring for the other locations.

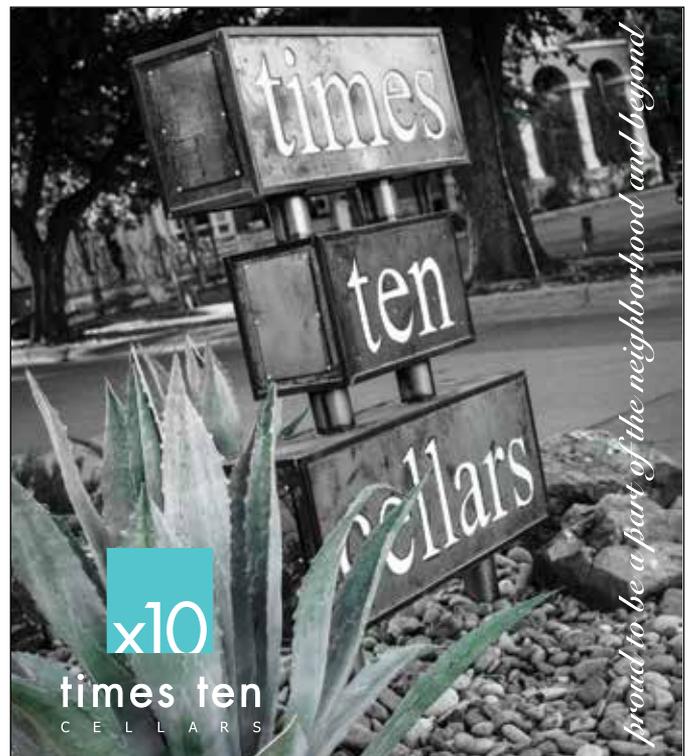
It takes a committed and professional person concerned about others, Ms. Reeves said. "Some of the guards tell me they've crossed two or three generations of families. They all boast about that when they've worked a long time." In addition to helping students navigate traffic, crossing guards teach traffic rules and oversee behavior to ensure safety.

DISD parent Sophie Gonzales says she loves the guards' positivity. "Thank you for all the time and effort you put into getting the kids home safe," she said. "We need that smiling face after we pick up our kids."

The most helpful thing community members can do, according to crossing guard Quintin Campbell, is obey traffic laws. "I wish people would be more cognizant and aware that they're in a school zone and people are walking through the intersections," he said. "Please don't speed in school zones."



Dallas Independent School District crossing guard Quinton Campbell visits with students Bryson Brown and Daina Wolf while waiting for traffic to clear the crosswalk.



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Tour Lush Landscapes With Low Water Needs



by Dee Anna Hanchey

Old habits can be hard to break. But if you're among the many Dallas residents who are spending about half of your monthly water bills to quench thirsty lawns, the 23rd annual Water-Wise Landscape Tour could be just the inspiration you need to break your turf habit—

while transforming your landscape into something beautiful.

The tour, slated for Saturday, Oct. 14, is designed to showcase breathtaking landscapes featuring native and adaptive plants with low watering needs.

"We want to encourage people to slowly convert their yards and lower their water bills by reducing the area of turf," said Noel Nielson of the Dallas Water Utilities Conservation District.

For tour maps and details, along with other tips for conserving water and saving on your water bill, visit savedallaswater.com



One of the featured gardens on the 2016 Water-Wise Landscape Tour.

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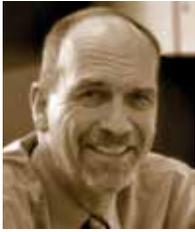
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Speeding Crackdown Success and Setbacks



by Paul E. Maynard

Just as it seemed speeding cars in Far East Dallas had taken a detour into the slow lane, another fatal accident occurred. Over the last several months, city leaders and enforcement agencies have made a concentrated effort to curtail speeding on our local roads and boulevards. Unfortunately, this effort was triggered by a traffic death attributed to speeding on Buckner Boulevard in December of last year. "While there isn't a concentrated effort to issue tickets, there has been an increased awareness and actions to help reduce speeds in our local neighborhoods," Mark Clayton told me in a recent interview. Mr. Clayton recently won re-election as Dallas' District 9 City Council representative.

However, for the second time in eight months, Mr. Clayton met with City of Dallas—City Hall (DCH) staff to address another fatal accident, on August 3, on Buckner. This meeting was to see what more can be done until the new light comes in at Oates Drive next year.

Councilmember Mark Clayton and staff from the Mobility and Dallas Street Services Department meet on Buckner Boulevard to discuss options.



He told me his initial action after the first accident was to call the division chief at the Dallas Police Department Northwest Patrol Division office on Northwest Highway. As with any other disruption, such as burglary or suspicious activity, the division promised extra patrols.

What resulted was a slowing of traffic on Garland, Buckner and Ferguson roads. And, after further interaction with the head of the



Increased traffic enforcement efforts on Garland Road.

Department of Street Services, more speed limit signs were placed in conspicuous locations.

"We can't always legislate a solution, but we can improve enforcement to enact change," Mr. Clayton said. By engaging key people within city departments in a timely fashion, Mr. Clayton was able to effect a change quickly.

Since the August incident, city staff has ordered directional arrows to improve the light at Mercer Drive to help neighbors get in and out of the neighborhood and school. Those improvements are scheduled for installation within the next eight weeks. "The meeting yesterday was to ask what more can be done at the intersection," Mr. Clayton said. "And to also emphasize that the new light at Oates be of the opposite timing of the existing light at Mercer. In the meantime, I have asked staff to do anything they can do to raise the visibility of that light. It wouldn't have stopped the most recent accident, but might prevent the next one."

Mr. Clayton also pointed out that while ticketing is the most obvious deterrent to speeding, adding appropriate signage and reconfiguring traffic light timing are also effective tools.

While Mr. Clayton is one of many elected representatives in City Hall, he is also a conduit to finding out the right information for the right situation or problem. "Think of me as Google for your city government," Mr. Clayton continued. "I can usually find the right department or person to talk with pretty quickly."

For service requests or to report code violations, **it is best to call 311**. For District 9 issues, call Mr. Clayton at DCH 214-670-4069.



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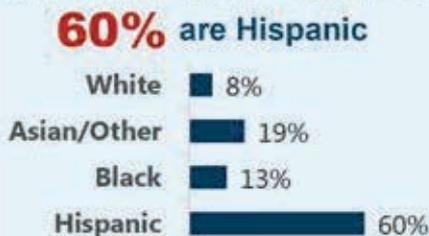
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Welcome Mountain View Church of Christ

The Ferguson Road Initiative welcomes the newest member of FRI, Mountain View Church of Christ (7979 E. R.L. Thornton Freeway). Recently purchased from the Dallas Central Church of the Nazarene, the building is currently undergoing renovation. Pastor J.K. Hamilton said “The members of our congregation are not waiting until we move in this December to begin serving the residents living in the 75228 ZIP code area. We want to begin serving now.” That’s why on August 12, more than 300 backpacks with school supplies were given away to children, along with fun and good fellowship. Please join FRI in welcoming our newest faith community.



Mountain View Church of Christ’s back to school backpack drive.

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As of August 2017

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To donate by debit/credit card, go to FRI website, or enter info below. To donate by check, mail it to FRI @ P.O. Box 570417, Dallas, TX 75357

Charge my Visa, MasterCard, Discover, American Express (select) Debit Credit My check for
Card # _____ Exp. ____ / ____ Code _____ \$_____ is enclosed

Name as it appears on the card: _____

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SEPTEMBER 14, 2017
www.fergusonroad.org
Go to NorthTexasGivingDay.org
Search for Ferguson Road Initiative. Give for Good
Give in ADVANCE online anytime between September 7-13.

To learn more about our good work, we invite you to go to our web site and view the a video about FRI. Or scan the QR code below:

Upcoming Area Events

North Texas Giving Day

Date: Thursday, September 14
Time: 6:00 a.m. – 12:00 a.m.

FRI Community Connection Town Hall and Volunteer/Nonprofit Fair

Date: Monday, September, 11
Time: 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

DPD Northeast Patrol Division Faith Based Training Workshop

Date: Thursday, September 14, 2017
Time: 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Dallas Emergency Preparedness Extravaganza

Date: Saturday, September 16
Time: 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Klyde Warren Park

White Rock Hills Library Workforce Solutions

Date: Monday, September 18
Start Time: 2:00 p.m.

White Rock Hills Library Chronic Disease Self-Management

Date: Friday, September 8
Start Time: 10:30 a.m.

White Rock Hills Library Creature Scavenger Hunt

Date: Sunday, October 1
Time: All Day

DPD Northeast Patrol Division National Night Out

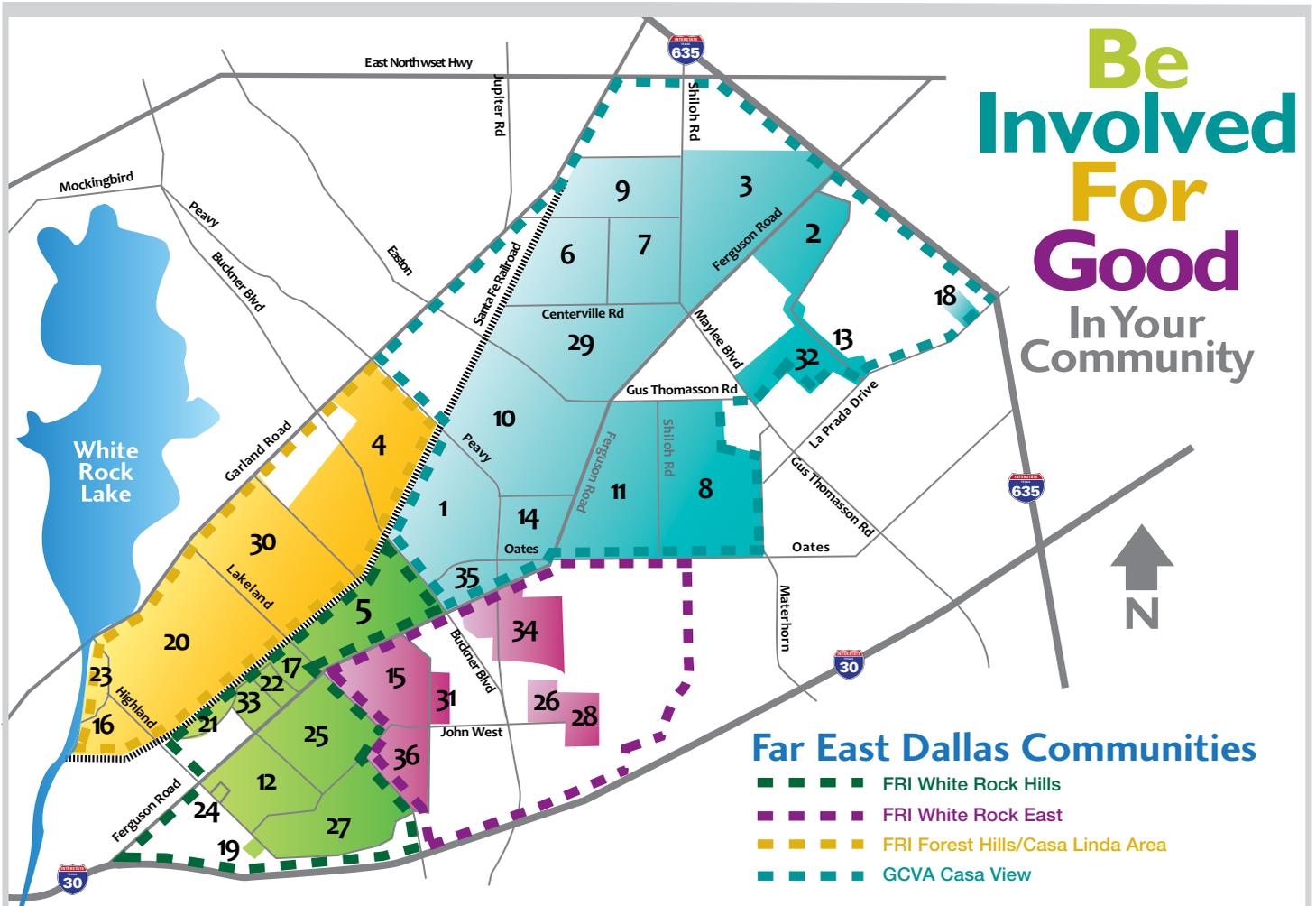
Date: October, 3

Water-Wise Landscape Tour

Date: Saturday, October 14
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

FRI Annual Operation Beautification

Date: Saturday, March 3, 2018
Time: 9:00 a.m. to Noon



Be Involved For Good In Your Community

Far East Dallas Communities

- FRI White Rock Hills
- 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!

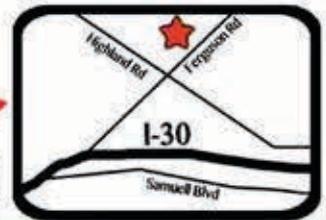
<p>1 - Alger Park/Ash Creek NA (1153) www.crimewatch1153.org 214-967-5191 (Voice mail)</p> <p>2 - Braeburn Glen CW (1132) www.braeburn-glen.com 214-967-5078 (Voice mail)</p> <p>3 - Briarwood NA (1258) www.briarwoodna.com</p> <p>4 - Casa Linda Estates NA www.casalindaestates.com</p> <p>5 - Casa Linda Forest NA 214-967-5076 (Voice mail)</p> <p>6 - Casa View Heights CW (1129)</p>	<p>7 - Casa View Heights CW (1130) annteague@sbcglobal.net</p> <p>8 - Casa View Heights CW (1156)</p> <p>9 - Casa View CW (1115)</p> <p>10 - Casa View Haven NA (1135) www.casaviewhaven.org</p> <p>11 - Casa View Oaks NA casaviewoaks.com</p> <p>12 - Claremont Addition NA (1199) claremontaddition@sbcglobal.net www.claremontaddition.org</p> <p>13 - Club Manor NA clubmanorhoa@yahoo.com</p>	<p>14 - Crestview Park NA</p> <p>15 - Eastwood Hills NA www.eastwoodhillsdallas.com info@eastwoodhillsdallas.com</p> <p>16 - Enclave at White Rock HOA</p> <p>17 - Estates at Forest Hills HOA www.estatesatforesthills.com info@estatesatforesthills.com</p> <p>18 - Fairway Estates HOA</p> <p>19 - Forest Creek HOA</p> <p>20 - Forest Hills Association www.foresthillsdallas.org</p> <p>21 - Forest Meade HOA</p>	<p>22 - Forest Oaks NA</p> <p>23 - Highland on the Creek</p> <p>24 - Highlands Apartments CW</p> <p>25 - Hillridge CW 214-967-5080 (Voice mail) hillridgecrimewatch@yahoo.com</p> <p>26 - Hillview Terrace NA 214-967-5160 (Voice mail)</p> <p>27 - Lakeland Hills CW 214-967-5084 (Voice mail)</p> <p>28 - Light Pointe Place HOA</p> <p>29 - Little Casa View ferrismichelle@hotmail.com</p>	<p>30 - Little Forest Hills NA lffneighborhood@swbell.net</p> <p>31 - Skyline Heights CW</p> <p>32 - St. Andrews CW jessicayoung@me.com</p> <p>33 - Stonegate at Forest Hills</p> <p>34 - Truett CW www.truettareacw.org</p> <p>35 - White Rock Forest NA</p> <p>36 - White Rock Village CW info@neighborhoodlink.com 214-967-5190 (Voice mail)</p>
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