

# FRIdays

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Summer 2018

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Takes Collaboration





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*The mission of FRI is to engage and  
 empower a community of advocates to  
 advance a safe, beautiful, prosperous and  
 proud community in Far East Dallas.*



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 for Northern District

**Monica Smith-Downs** – The Smith Law Firm, Attorney

**Lynn Vogt** – Community Volunteer

**Marnie Wildenthal** – Civic Leader

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Little Forrest Hills resident Paul E. Maynard of  
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 park. Thank you to Paul for letting us feature his  
 furry family on the cover of *FRI*days.

# FRI Executive Director Updates

## Moving Forward to Engage, Empower and Evolve the Far East Dallas Community



by Vikki J. Martin, Executive Director,  
Ferguson Road Initiative

**White Rock Hills Community Recreation Center**—Phase I of the White Rock Hills Community Recreation Center (CENTER) is scheduled to begin before the end of the year with the groundbreaking of the White Rock Hills Park

at 2229 Ferguson Road. With the support of Mark Clayton, Dallas City Council member for District 9, the building of the park will be the first step in addressing the recreation gap within the lower Ferguson Road Corridor. The park, started and led by Dallas's City Council District 7, now resides in District 9 due to redistricting, and will serve both constituencies. It will feature a quarter-mile walking trail loop, pavilion, signature art, an iconic playground, and flexible athletic practice fields. Eventually the park will tie into the White Rock Creek South and the Trinity Forest Spine trails, linking our community to the citywide Dallas Trail Plan.

Council member Clayton has demonstrated his commitment and leadership to keep the CENTER project moving forward by designating \$200,000 on the 2017 Bond Program to help pay for schematic designs



Architectural rendering of White Rock Hills Park.

and construction documents. The completion of these documents are the next step toward building the CENTER. Thank you Mark Clayton.

**Reconstruction of Highland Road Set to Begin**—The \$2.7 million reconstruction of Highland Road is slated to begin in February 2019 and will run from Ferguson Road to the Primrose Senior Living Apartments. This project will include sidewalks, storm sewers, water and wastewater upgrades, on-street parking, pedestrian lighting, landscaping, curbing and a bike path connecting to the new park and the future CENTER.

**Owenwood Farm & Neighbor Space**—An exciting partnership with White Rock United Methodist Church (WRUMC) is now addressing the need for more social service programs in the FRI area. The leadership of WRUMC has presented FRI with a phenomenal opportunity to partner with them to repurpose the former Owenwood United Methodist Church at 1451 John West Road into a community center. Rebranded as Owenwood Farm & Neighbor Space (Owenwood), this facility will house education and social services.

This means our friends and neighbors can benefit from these services



Friends and neighbors socialize at Owenwood Farm & Neighbor Space.

now instead of having to wait for several years until the CENTER on Highland Road is built. Owenwood is a 30,000 square-foot building located on 6 acres right in our community.

Nonprofits will provide programs and services to meet urgent community needs like food insecurity, early childhood education, senior services, financial literacy, nutrition and health, arts programs and more. Some of the nonprofits that plan to participate include urban farm partner Grow North Texas [grownorthtexas.org](http://grownorthtexas.org), Haven for Hope Texas Diaper Bank [texasdiaperbank.org](http://texasdiaperbank.org), and Aberg Center for Literacy [www.abergcenter.org](http://www.abergcenter.org).

It will take about \$1.5 million to make the building fully operational. The Hoblitzelle Foundation recently awarded Owenwood \$100,000 to that end. Programs will begin in 2019. After the CENTER is built, the Owenwood programs and services can be scaled and expanded to the CENTER.

**Volunteer Income Tax Assistance**—This spring, 67 volunteers provided the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program to 1,492 low-income families. These families received a combined \$2.8 million in refunds. This is the 13th year FRI has provided VITA services, making a grand total of \$19 million in total refunds returned free of charge to the community. This year we give a big shout out to Access Self-Storage, First Community Church, Foundation Communities, State Representative Eric Johnson, Operation Blue Shield, United Way of Greater Dallas, The University of Texas at Dallas and Southern Methodist University for their generous support. The community trusts FRI because we are making a positive difference in the lives of the financially fragile. If you want to help folks in our community keep more money for their families, please consider becoming a VITA volunteer. Training begins in November. Contact Maria Valenzuela at [mariavalenzuela@fergusonroad.org](mailto:mariavalenzuela@fergusonroad.org) or (214)324-5116.



Volunteers provide  
free income tax  
assistance at  
FRI's VITA site.



## Ferguson Road Initiative's Board Appoints New Leadership

### Message From the President



by Nicole K. Miller, Board President,  
Ferguson Road Initiative

On November 10, 2018, the Ferguson Road Initiative (FRI) will celebrate 20 years of service to the citizens of Far East Dallas. At our annual FRI Board Retreat this spring, we carefully examined the future of FRI and asked ourselves,

*"Is our work done? If we close shop, who would advocate, communicate, connect, lead and empower our community?"* The answer was obvious. There is no other group as uniquely equipped as FRI to lead this community into the future. As a result, the board voted unanimously to continue FRI's mission to serve our neighborhoods.

As the board's newly elected president, I am honored to be asked to serve in this vital role as we restructure and engage additional leaders with the expertise, passion, and commitment to lead FRI into the future. I've been a resident in the area for over 19 years, served on the board since 2017, and have served on several FRI steering committees over the years. I've witnessed the hard work and efforts that FRI has committed to transforming our community.

At our last FRI board meeting, we appointed Vikki Martin as part-time executive director to run daily operations, continue to increase community engagement, and continue fundraising for our agency. We also elected Dan Ortman, who has served on the board since 2015, as our new vice president. Dan is a resident of the Forest Hills neighborhood, Bill M. Coleman and Jerry Clancy remain in their current roles as secretary and treasurer, respectively.

We've updated our mission and vision statements with the future in mind, and I am confident that with the FRI leadership, staff, volunteers and supporters, we will continue to make a difference in the lives of those living and working in Far East Dallas. We are committed to evolving our advocacy efforts and hope with your help and continued support we can ensure an ongoing thriving community for all.

## Save the Date: FRI Town Hall

Join us for our twice-a-year FRI Community Connection Town Hall meeting 6:30–8:30 p.m. Monday, September 17, at White Rock Church of Christ Fellowship Hall, 9220 Ferguson Road.

Below is the agenda:

- 6:30 p.m.** Meet & Greet, sponsored by Monster Yogurt
- 6:50 p.m.** Special Presentations
- 7:05 p.m.** FRI Community Updates
- 7:30 p.m.** Owenwood Farm & Neighbor Space
- 7:45 p.m.** 20 Seasons of Love Anniversary Breakfast
- 7:50 p.m.** North Texas Giving Day

*Give for Good . . . of Your Time, Talent & Treasure*



## North Texas Giving Day—\$16,000 Call-To-Action Challenge by McDonald's and FRI Supporters

September 20, 2018, from 6 a.m. to midnight marks 10 years of FRI's participation in North Texas Giving Day. This annual online giving event, sponsored by the Communities Foundation of Texas, ignites the spirit of giving to nonprofits. This year we ask our generous supporters to continue to Give for Good.

Our Challenge/Match campaigns have increased total giving from 2015 by 316 percent. Last year we raised more than \$30,000. This year's goal is \$32,000. FRI is confident our community can rise to this challenge. Our special friends, Larry and Sue Ingram of McDonald's kicked off our campaign with a \$5,000 pledge, and Tina and Gary Millican of Enchanted Hills Apartments, Residential Reservices' Mac and Kay Lawson, and Ken Benson of Ken Benson & Associates joined them with additional contributions. We are off and running and are optimistic that by the time you receive this FRIdays, we will have raised \$16,000 in challenge grants. In the spirit of giving, we ask you to help us match this amount on September 20.

Donors can make their online gifts to FRI in advance anytime between September 10 and 19. Your credit card payment will be processed on September 20.

If you want to give in person, come to our Donation Station anytime between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Thursday, September 20, in McDonald's at 8117 East R. L. Thornton Freeway (Jim Miller and I-30). Join us for free refreshments, fellowship, and face painting for the kids. If you need help making your online donation, we will be there to help. 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, communication, leadership, empowerment, and supporting advocacy for Far East Dallas.

On September 20, "get up and give" from 6 a.m. to midnight. Help FRI meet this year's \$32,000 challenge.

To learn more about our good work, view the FRI NTGD Video at: [www.fergusonroad.org/about/videos/](http://www.fergusonroad.org/about/videos/)

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



Vikki Martin and McDonald's owner, Larry Ingram, at NTGD 2017. Thank you, Larry.

## Save The Date

# 20 Seasons of Love

## ANNIVERSARY BREAKFAST

The FRI Board of Directors is hosting a breakfast to celebrate the 20-year Anniversary of Ferguson Road Initiative, recognize its members and announce the partnership with Owenwood Farm & Neighbor Space.

Join FRI on Saturday, November 10 as we celebrate our 20 years of service to Far East Dallas through images, stories and song.

Founded in 1998 as a nonprofit to fight crime and improve the quality of life in Far East Dallas, FRI can never find enough ways to express our gratitude to our Members, Supporters, and Partners. Without you, our good work would be impossible.

**FRI Members are invited to join us for breakfast on Saturday, November 10, 9 to 11 a.m. at Owenwood Farm & Neighbor Space located at 1451 John West Road.**

**It's not too late to join FRI and support us by becoming a member. Look for your mailed membership invitation in early October.**

## Have a "Cup of Joe" on Monster Yogurt and Support FRI

During August and September, in celebration of FRI's 20-year anniversary, FRI will be the Coffee Charity for Monster Yogurt, located in Casa Linda Plaza, near Albertsons. We invite you and your family to drop by for a cup of yogurt and enjoy a "cup of joe" on the house with a donation to the Ferguson Road Initiative.

Thank you, Monster Yogurt and Ava Skipworth, FRI resident and business supporter.

**Look for Ava on September 17 at the FRI Community Connection Town Hall Meeting where she will be helping us cool off from our hot summer with Monster Yogurt samples.**



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# It Takes a Village to Age in Place

by Renee Karp and Caren Edelstein, Determination Inc.

*Editor's Note—In the following article, Renee and Caren recount how they became motivated to start a local aging-in-place non-profit program.*

Ann Bloom, a healthy, vibrant, with-it 90-year-old, lived alone and her age imposed limits. No longer able to drive, she was interested in volunteering. When calling to offer her services, she was always welcomed. But when she asked for a ride to get there, the answer usually was “So sorry, but we have no way of getting you here.” Isolated, her feeling of being less useful was painful to watch. She still had so much to offer—but no place to go.

Now, many might say, why not move her into a senior facility? This fiercely independent Yankee was NOT going to give up her independence. I supported this decision. But making it a reality was indeed a challenge.

My mother's ability to control her schedule was vital to her well-being and dignity. After a life of giving to her family, I felt she was now entitled to do it her way.

Many in the neighborhood were also isolated and unaware of each other. What they needed was an organization to help neighbors get together, provide needed services and enable them to participate in some meaningful way in their community. I discovered another neighbor who struggled to help her widowed father remain independent. While our situations were not identical, our desire to enable them to live at home, engage in their communities and maintain their independence and dignity were. We put our heads together and started researching possibilities.

We learned from an AARP survey that 90 percent of senior citizens wanted to remain in their homes, just as our parents did.

A University of Pittsburgh study revealed that older adults living alone are more likely to be emotionally well if they feel close to their neighbors and connected to their community.

While continuing to investigate the economics of an aging population, we learned that enabling older adults to remain in place provides for an affordable housing benefit.

As we talked about what we were learning with others, we were directed to the Village Movement's Senior Villages—an aging-in-place initiative.

**Senior Villages** are nonprofit membership organizations that residents join to receive services. Members are able to remain in their homes and age in place. Typical offerings shared by all members include home-safety modifications, transportation, meal delivery, dog walking and walking groups, technology training and support, health and wellness programs, and social activities like dinners, book groups, craft and card groups. Sometimes the services of vetted housekeeping assistance, visiting nurses and other forms of assistance are employed. Each Village determines its own needs and services.

Excited by what we learned, we developed a proposal, as Determination Inc., to create a nonprofit that will establish an aging-in-place pilot program for older adults based on the Village program. We are pleased to partner with FRI with the goal of establishing a Village program in East Dallas. We want to hear from you to identify the priority needs of seniors 55 and above living in your community. Please take our survey at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PC9JVVV>. To request a printed copy of the survey be mailed to you by emailing us at: [info@determinationinc.org](mailto:info@determinationinc.org) or by calling us at (214)676-7405.



*Older adults, aging in place, experience emotional well being when they feel close to neighbors and connected to their community.*

## OASIS Program Feeds Bryan Adams Homeless Students

Join the volunteers pictured below and cook for the homeless or at-risk teens attending Bryan Adams High School. Meals are coordinated by St. Mark Presbyterian Church at 9999 Ferguson Road. Sign up and help. Contact Jacqueline Minick at [jaciemye45@hotmail.com](mailto:jaciemye45@hotmail.com).



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# 200 Plus Volunteers Clean Far East Dallas in Operation Beautification



by Vikki J. Martin, Executive Director,  
Ferguson Road Initiative

Volunteers from neighborhoods, schools, businesses, and service groups participated in FRI's annual March Operation Beautification. Several hundred bags of trash and illegal signs were collected for city trash pickup. FRI acknowledges the help of our two key underwriters:

City Credit Union and Young Chevrolet; our partner Walgreens; as well as friends like the City of Dallas, the Dallas Police Department, Elliott's Hardware, Ferguson Donuts, For the Love of the Lake, McDonald's, Resource One Credit Union and Signage Systems.

Kudos go to Bryan Adams High School with 30-plus volunteers from their National Honor Society, Student Council, and Athletic Program. A big thank you to all of our volunteers and folks that helped set up, sign up, and clean up.



Event sponsor City Credit Union volunteer team.



Bryan Adams High School (BAHS) volunteers in front of partner Walgreens.



District 7 Council member Kevin Felder (third from right) and BAHS volunteers.

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# What an Exciting Past Year for the Greater Casa View Community



by Mike Nurre

## Casa View Merits Housing Policy Designation

First, Greater Casa View Alliance (GCVA) was told in May that CasaView had been selected as one of three neighborhood areas in Dallas to participate in the city's Neighborhood Plus program.

Neighborhood Plus is a citywide neighborhood revitalization plan with six strategic goals: Collective Impact (GCVA), alleviating poverty, fighting blight (*see below*), attracting and retaining the middle class (CasaView shopping improvements), increasing homeownership and enhancing rental options. All CasaView neighborhoods will be encouraged to work together on these goals.

Also under Dallas' new comprehensive housing policy, CasaView was named as a stabilization area, which means we appear prime for gentrification because we are close to stronger markets. As one of these designates, the city's strategy could be to freeze property taxes, give fee rebates for homeowners who improve their property, work with developers to create affordable housing options, and also improve existing housing in the area.

As for fighting blight and alleviating poverty, Ken Montgomery, a former GCVA board member, was appointed by Council member Mark Clayton to the Community Development Commission to work on both homelessness and the critical need for at least 20,000 more affordable homes throughout the city.

GCVA and the Dallas Planning & Urban Design department have begun putting together a timeline so we can all help ensure that these goals are achieved. Watch for announcements about a public meeting on these issues in the fall.

**Update on Casa View Center**—Second, the Casa View Shopping Center continues to see both renewal and new road and median construction on Gus Thomasson, which started in August 2017. After installation of new storm drainage, water main tie-ins, line testings, and inlet adjustments, plus dealing with some weather challenges, the construction and paving should be completed by January 2019.

The subgrade preparation for eastbound traffic through the intersection will be ready in August, and the contractor shifted to westbound traffic for concrete removal and subgrade preparation of the new detour travel lanes.

The Casa View Shopping Center has changed ownership, and the new owners are as anxious as we residents are to show off their new center, using many of the ideas from the Greater Casa View Area Plan, see [www.greatercasaview.org](http://www.greatercasaview.org). Already a taco restaurant and a large hair salon are slated to be new tenants by early September. Worth the wait, 2019 will bring a new vibrancy to living in Casa View.

**Future Summer Swims for All Ages**—Third, thanks to the successful bond vote last November and per the Dallas Park & Recreation Department's *Dallas Aquatic Facilities Master Plan*, the Harry Stone Park swimming pool will be upgraded to a Neighborhood Family Aquatic Center (NFAC) serving approximately a 1-mile radius. Designs for the new enlarged NFAC are scheduled to be complete in June of 2019 and typically include a children's play pool; a new slide and spray ground; a four-lane lap pool; a tots pool; and a new bathhouse with concessions. The City of Dallas Park and Recreation Department are planning public meetings for this fall to get feedback from residents regarding the design and amenities.



NFAC will be similar to *Old Settler's Family Aquatic Center McKinney, TX*

**Crime and Safety**—Co-chair Lee Barron and board members Paul Bennett, Brad Boling, and Marc Valerin arranged two successful and meaningfully responsive meetings with Dallas Police's Northeast Division's entire senior staff including Chief Moore. The result was an agreement to follow up on an action list that places increased focus on GCVA's prime areas of concern—random gunfire, increased auto break-ins and thefts, and the geographic area of LBJ and Ferguson Road.

**Leadership**—Mike Nurre, a founding co-chair of the Greater Casa View Alliance, was elected in May 2018, to serve as president of the Greater East Dallas Chamber of Commerce beginning January 2019 for a two-year term. GCVA has been an active member of this chamber for over three years. This is the first time ever that the Chamber has been led by a resident of Far East Dallas.

*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](http://www.greatercasaview.org).*



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# Solving the Dallas Dog Crises One Family at a Time



by Stephanie Timko

*Editor's note: Stephanie Timko, Animal Advisory Commission Appointee for Dallas City Council District 7, and president of Just Save the Dog animal advocacy agency, shares her get-it-done passion for animal welfare in the City of Dallas.*

Shelters at capacity, abandoned dogs, needy and dying dogs. The scope of animal neglect that is evident every day in Dallas, and in southern

Dallas in particular, can seem overwhelming, leaving many to think that fixing the problem is best left to the experts. But nothing could be further from the truth.

I have gained a high respect for Dallas Animal Services (DAS) serving on the Animal Advisory Commission. Learning first hand the challenges they face and the good work DAS provides the citizens of Dallas has been enlightening. City of Dallas Animal Control Ordinances are among the most progressive in the nation. In 2017 the council passed a mandatory spay/neuter ordinance that allows for few exceptions. Dallas is the largest city in Texas with a ban on unattended tethering. And, on June 27, the City Council instituted an ordinance calling for criminal charges against owners who allow their dog to bite a person or another animal. This community crisis cannot be solved by DAS alone, they must have help from the community.

In my personal advocacy work, rather than rescue loose and lost dogs, I help pet owners access the resources that they need to care for their dogs. A lot of pet-related organizations use the word outreach to describe what they do. To be clear, outreach to me means love.

When I notice neighbors who struggle to care for a pet, I reach out to help not just with the dogs but with the dogs' owners as well. Once they agree to become a client, I provide outreach which means laying hands on every dog on my client list at least once every 30 days to provide food and flea and tick medication. These visits give me an opportunity to check on the condition of the dog and follow up on work that needs to be done.

Similar to other outreach programs, I sign up clients for free spay/neuter services and teach them about laws governing animal ownership in Dallas. Where other programs stop at the point of the pets' spay/neuter, I keep relationships alive and provide one-on-one coaching in dog ownership.

It is a slow approach. I might work with an owner for a month to get their dog off a heavy chain and on to a light tether. Then the next few months we work on health, spay/neuter, and cleaning up the living space of the dog. I might take a dog for a walk with the owner to encourage daily

interaction and exercise and to strengthen the human-animal bond. If the owner is making progress and shows a genuine interest in their pet, we may raise funds to fix the fence, build a run or provide a doghouse.

I understand that changing old habits and belief systems is a difficult task, but I believe that it's worth the painstaking effort. Through one-on-one coaching, we not only change the life of the dog, but we get to know the owner and build trust. Soon, that trust spreads through the community. As the relationships with clients progress, they reach out to others and share what they have learned. Neighborhood bonds strengthen. Soon, humane animal care becomes the community norm, not by pressure from the outside, but by example from within.

I believe it's this one-dog-at-a-time approach that will eventually lead to solving the animal welfare crisis in Dallas.



*Volunteers from Just Save the Dog animal advocacy agency help a pet owner clean up a backyard environment to make it healthier for their dog.*



*Just Save the Dog animal advocacy agency, seeks to help dogs in unhealthy conditions.*

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f t in



# Spay and Neuter Your Pets for Extended Life



by Paul E. Maynard

Celebrities, billboards and public service announcements frequently advise us to spay and neuter our pets.

Birth control for pets (spaying of female and neutering of male dogs and cats) began in the 1960s in California as an animal population control measure. The idea behind this measure, along with leash laws, was to lessen the impact of overpopulation of domesticated animals on the humans who occupied cities in the state.

But spaying and neutering goes beyond just limiting the numbers of kittens and puppies being born each day. It's a quality of life issue for all. *"By reducing the number of animals through spaying and neutering, we create a healthier, cleaner and more comfortable environment in which we can all live"* said Jacob Carty a director for the Spay and Neuter Network.

Beyond population control, there are huge health advantages to spaying or neutering your pet. *"The procedure lowers the risk for a number of cancers as well as reduces aggressive tendencies in both species,"* said Dr. Virginia Ellsworth, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine with East Dallas Veterinary Clinic.

Spaying your female dog or cat will also improve her health and extend her life many years longer than if she were unaltered. Neutering your male dog will not harm his health—in fact, it will lengthen his life and save him from several diseases, including testicular and perianal tumors, which are commonly observed in older, unaltered dogs.

The best time to spay or neuter your small breed of dog or cat is before its first heat, before it is six months old. Ellsworth cited these

statistics from the American Veterinary Medical Association about health issues related to doing this procedure early: The risk of breast cancer in cats is .05 percent if the procedure is done early. The risk rises to 8 percent if you wait until after the pet's second heat. After a third reproductive cycle, the risk goes all the way up to 26 percent.

In male dogs, prostate cancers are reduced similarly. *"We do recommend that some larger breeds wait a few months to have the procedure,"* Ellsworth continued. *"Some studies have shown that this provides the best outcome."*

The only downside to sterilizing your pet is the possibility of weight gain. But that is in the control of us as pet parents. We need to not equate food with love and should give our pets regular exercise to help them stay fit and trim.

There are a number of clinics in North Texas, to help pet owners in the community meet this City of Dallas code relating to animals.

One low-cost option is the nonprofit Spay and Neuter Network. This 14-year-old agency performs over 24,000 procedures each year. *"We like to say we are creating a better life for animals and people with what we do,"* Jacob Carty told me. The organization serves 13 North Texas counties with spaying and neutering services using clinics, mobile clinics and transport services. They also have a feral cat sterilization program. *"Keep in mind that the average healthy dog can produce two litters each year of 6 to 8 puppies. Cats can have three litters each year"* Mr. Carty said. That's a lot of animals needing food and producing waste—and even more animals.



*The small wound and short recovery is well worth a longer healthier life.*

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# Caring for Lost and Loose Pets Takes Collaboration



by Gabriela Pataro

*Editor's note: Gabriela Pataro, White Rock Forest resident, retired restaurateur, and pet rescue advocate, shares her passion for being a part of the solution to help pets in need.*

From restaurants and tasty desserts to kibble and treats. I suppose I'm still feeding somebody as I have been since 1987. My last restaurant had the honor of having the first Pup Patio Permit #001 in Dallas—not an easy feat. Just 10 years ago, Texas law did not allow dogs on restaurant patios. Former Dallas City Council member Angela Hunt formed an ad hoc committee on which I served to make Dallas the first city to welcome dogs. It introduced me to the world of rescue and the passionate animal advocates in our community. I thank them and Dallas Animal Services (DAS) for teaching me about rescue, rehabilitation, return or re-homing. It's amazing that a year after retiring, my husband and I are now rescuing dogs and cats.

Developed to be dependent on humans, the dog, in its hundreds of breeds, serves as companion, best friend, confidant and protector, all in exchange for the basics of life—food, shelter, safety and love. Cats as a species are capable of surviving on their own, though their existence is primitive and quickly results in high reproduction, exacerbating the problem.

Fortunately, our standards of care are evolving. This is where the community comes in. Refusing to accept un-permitted breeding and selling of cute litters to many who buy on a whim is one way. Our communities can also work to curb the number of neglected, stray and feral animals, as well as loose, un-tagged and un-collared animals.

I've learned that quick action equals good results. If you see a loose pet, take a picture of the animal and the location, post it on social media, call 311, or better yet, use the 311 app. DAS reunites and adopts pets out daily. Others are assessed for adoption and networked for rescue, taking adoptable, injured and scared pets out of the shelter and re-homes them. No animal leaves DAS without first having donated their reproductive organs—or their new caretakers have pledged to spay or neuter the animal immediately. Spay and neuter is the greatest contribution to address the tremendous animal overpopulation problem we have in the City of Dallas.



*Pictured clockwise from top right, London running loose, sad and scared at DAS, and taking it easy as a happy foster.*

## Become a part of the solution

**Learn and take action**—Visit the DAS website for information about City of Dallas pet laws at [www.dallascityhall.com/departments/dallas-animal-services](http://www.dallascityhall.com/departments/dallas-animal-services). Use social media to connect to the rescue community.

**Foster**—Fostering animals serves as a bridge to a better life for the pet. DAS and rescue groups need fosters more than they need money. Think of the joy you will feel when the pet finds its perfect home. Volunteers do a myriad of things, some as simple as transporting dogs to DAS or posting lost dogs on social media.

**Tag and chip your pets**—Avoid the chaos and heartache of a lost pet. A tag with phone numbers and a message saying “I’m chipped” is vital, and it is a City of Dallas ordinance.

**Adopt**—A rescued animal knows gratitude. Remember, it's a 10- to 15-year commitment, or go for a senior.

**Don't be a feeder breeder**—Feeding loose dogs and homeless cats results in stray litters and contributes to over population.

**If you have FOUND an animal, please call Dallas Animal Services at (214) 670-9501**

**Plan re-homing**—Designate the person who will care for your pets when you are away or can no longer care for them. Work with family or friends to develop a re-homing plan.



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## Le Rêve Rehabilitation & Memory Care Facility Breaks Ground



by Vikki J. Martin, Executive Director,  
Ferguson Road Initiative

FRI was delighted to join the Dallas Police and Fire Department, Truett Crime Watch, residents from White Rock East, and others at the groundbreaking of Le Rêve last fall. Located at 3309 Dilido (next to Lakeland Hills Senior Living), Le Rêve will be a Rehabilitation and

Memory Care facility owned by MSL Healthcare (MSL). Owner and Vice President Troy Isaac stated that developing this property represents a "dream being realized." With senior citizens being one of the two fastest-growing demographics in Far East Dallas, this facility will allow folks to remain in their community.

The building will be over 53,000 sq. ft. and is estimated to be a \$10 million investment. MSL anticipates that the doors will open this winter.



*Pictured from left to right, Jeff T. Parker, Senior Vice President, Origin Bank; Cannon Flowers, Senior Affairs Commission Appointee, Dist 7; Ann Bagley, Plan Commissioner, Dist 7; Ellen Childress, Truett CW, Chairperson; Vikki Martin, FRI, President; PT Issac; Leela Issac; Rev. Issac P. Kurien and Troy Isaac of MSL.*



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## Resource One Is One Great Resource



by Gary Lawler

Resource One Credit Union's 82-year philosophy of people helping people goes beyond providing individual and commercial accounts and loans. Understanding that financial transactions may be overwhelming for first-timers, Resource One offers free financial counseling, helping customers learn to manage their first savings and checking accounts as well as loans.

It was only natural that Resource One and FRI would come together. In the 1990s, Resource One saw what FRI was doing and recognized their need for corporate sponsors. *"The partnership between Resource One and FRI has certainly helped turn Far East Dallas into a more attractive and vibrant community,"* said Jennifer Grinder, chief experience officer for Resource One. *"Being an FRI Community Connection Founder's Circle member since 2014 reflects our commitment to FRI and Far East Dallas."*

Understanding the importance of public safety, Resource One, through FRI, funded special equipment for Dallas Police Department use in Far East Dallas in 2001. More recently, Resource One has donated 101 tactical vests to the Dallas Police Department. They also provided the Dallas County Sheriff's Department with medical kits.

If you have outdated legal and financial documents that you would like shredded and recycled, **Resource One will hold a free document shredding day on Saturday, November 3, at 8344 E. R.L. Thornton Freeway (I-30 and Jim Miller) from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.** Another service from one great resource—Resource One.

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## Representative Eric Johnson Helps FRI

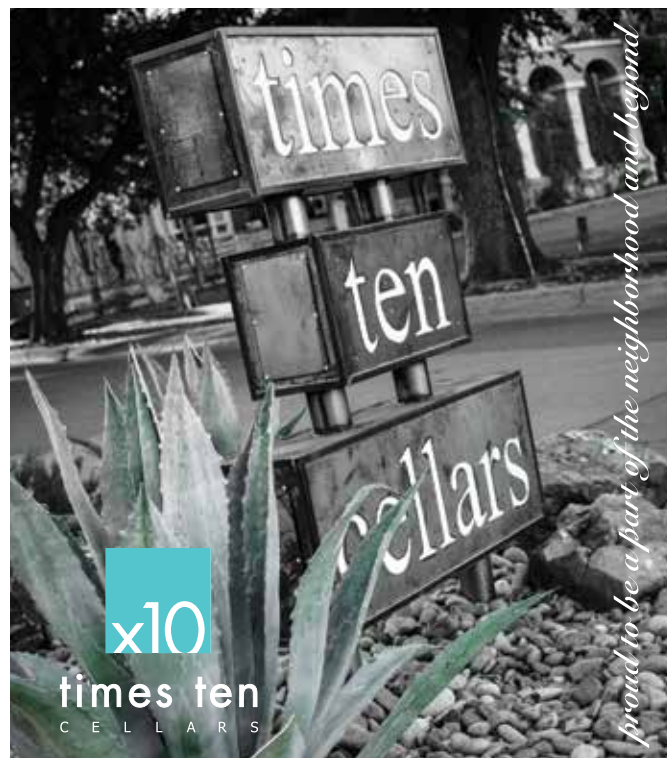


by *Mary Elbanna*

State Representative Eric Johnson has represented District 100 in the Texas House of Representatives since 2010. He has served on a remarkable 17 legislative committees and has helped pass laws to improve our public schools, increase transparency and accountability in our criminal justice system, and enhance the quality of life for Texas families by creating new paths to financial independence.

Representative Johnson is proud to represent nearly all of the area served by the Ferguson Road Initiative (FRI). His district office is located within the FRI area at 8035 East R.L. Thornton Freeway, Suite 200, Dallas, Texas, 75228. Representative Johnson has been a strong supporter of FRI for nearly a decade. He is a member of FRI's Founder's Circle, and for years he has played a key role in FRI's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program.

This year, FRI and its volunteers assisted in preparing nearly 1,500 tax returns that resulted in nearly \$3 million in refunds. Representative Johnson was proud to support these efforts and will continue to support FRI in the future.



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## What Does a Dallas County Commissioner Do?



by Mari L. Madison

This seems to be a question few people can fully comprehend. And for good reason.

Each of Dallas County's four districts elects a Commissioner that represents one quarter of the population. All of East Dallas is included in District I, managed by Dr. Theresa Daniel.

The responsibilities of the office include: managing a \$1 billion yearly budget; the Dallas County and District Court system with Justices of the Peace, Probate, Family Courts, Juvenile Courts and the County Jail. They also collect county taxes, conduct elections, work with the trail system and the public works department.

In addition to holding court, maintaining roads, organizing elections, and keeping the water clean, about 30 years ago the 26 cities in Dallas County gave them the responsibility of Health and Human Services, including managing Parkland Hospital and county clinics.

The Commissioners are tasked with knowing and informing the public of health issues, like the Ebola virus, and taking actions to mitigate them.

Dr. Daniel works with the City of Dallas, smaller cities and unincorporated areas, to provide the majority of the public health testing for diseases like West Nile and Zika. Current priorities include childhood immunizations, mosquito control, and community health education.

Dr. Daniel was a speaker at the recent Northeast Police Division Senior Wellness and Safety Breakfast at Bishop Lynch High school. *"I go to these events to listen to people, pay attention and learn where there are things that can be done,"* said Daniel.

One current project is converting a 7,000 square-foot building into a satellite Dallas County Service Center (DCSC). A second office is provided to each district for a road management office. There was no need in District I with one-half mile of unincorporated road. Instead, Daniel opened the DCSC to bring greater access of county services to the residents of eastern

District I, including Dallas County Veteran Services, Dallas County Juvenile Department office, Dallas County District Attorney Community Prosecution office, and Texas A&M University Agra Life.

Dr. Daniel serves on the Dallas County Civil Service Board which manages the 6,500 county employees. The board's current priority is providing employee incentives for getting advanced certifications, so there are more master plumbers, electricians and registered nurses, etc. *"To me this is really exciting because you are inspiring everybody. None of us can do this by ourselves,"* Daniel remarked.

Her motivation for a life-long dedication to the public service has evolved over the years. *"I started out as an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer after college. Next I earned a masters degree in social work, which lead to a job on a congressional staff. And then a Ph.D in Public Policy and Public Administration."*

As a 40-year resident of the area, she has been involved in local neighborhood associations, civic groups and churches. Before she was elected Dallas County Commissioner, she worked for the Dallas Independent School District. Having some long-term knowledge of an area is helpful. Her interests include, transportation trends, education, development, and the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Society.

When asked what motivates her to take on the multi-faceted task of the office, she replied. *"It's how we work together to get things done. You have to make sure the people that need to be at the table are there. It takes people offering their opinions, suggestions, experience and knowledge in order to create programs that will benefit the community."*

Most often the question people ask is about fixing potholes. That is one job that is not on her list. *"I do not do potholes...that's in City government."*



DCSC ribbon cutting. Left to right, Consulting Architect Tricy Magadini, David Shaulis with Denco Construction, Commissioner Theresa Daniel, Richard Davis with Texas A&M AgriLife, Jonathon Bazan, Assistant County Administrator

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# White Rock Hills Library Coding for Tweens Program



by Robert D. Brown

The White Rock Hills Library (WRHL) Friends and Ferguson Road Initiative (FRI) raised more than \$2,100 this spring to purchase eight laptop computers for a Computer Literacy Project benefiting at-risk children, youth and adults at the White Rock Hills Library. Half of this amount came from a single matching grant

from an anonymous donor.

WRHL Friends is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization that assists the White Rock Hills Library in meeting community needs with resources not available through the Dallas Library budget. FRI is a strong partner of the WRHL Friends, working together to advocate for quality library services in Far East Dallas.



Teen volunteer Maximo Mateo, a TAG student at Yvonne A. Ewell Townview Center, assists a student in a Google First Coding Class at White Rock Hills Library.

*"We made this grant request because the library is seeking to host after-school and summer enrichment classes for all ages. But the current desktop computers are aging and since they are fixed in place they cannot be used in a classroom setting. The Chromebooks are an inexpensive and practical solution,"* said WRHL Friends president Nick Harper.

The Chromebook computers are being used in science, technology, math, and workforce development programs. WRHL Friends worked closely with the library to determine that the laptops meet the guidelines of Dallas Public Library system's technology program, and can be serviced and updated as needed.

The library recently offered a Google First Coding Class with a teen teacher from the community working with WRHL children's librarian, Sharon McCollins. This class was at capacity with eight students participating. Tweens and teens were introduced to computer science and basic coding concepts and techniques as they learned to create and share their own digital stories. They used the Chromebooks to design stories, create and share animations, and learn how technology is used in the film and media industry.

*"I felt very good about our first class with the Chromebooks. It was a great introduction to computer science—they learned a simple programming language called 'Scratch' presented in the context of telling a story. The students were exposed to basic coding concepts such as sequencing, looping and repeating. It demonstrated that technology is all about solving problems, and, as part of the curriculum, they developed basic problem-solving skills,"* said McCollins.

More Google First Coding classes are planned this fall. No previous computer experience is necessary to take the class. For more information, call the library at **(14)670-8455**.

Since its opening in 2012, the White Rock Hills Library has become a valued and well-used library in the community. Two years ago, due to high demand, it expanded to seven-day-a-week service.

FRI began advocating for a library in our community as far back as 1998. A driving force behind the building of the library, FRI's strategic advocacy resulted in the acquisition of land for the library through city bond funds in 2003. In 2006 FRI lobbied for and received \$8.5 million to ensure funding for the library's design and construction. The library celebrated its grand opening in 2012 and has since become a community hub for Far East Dallas.



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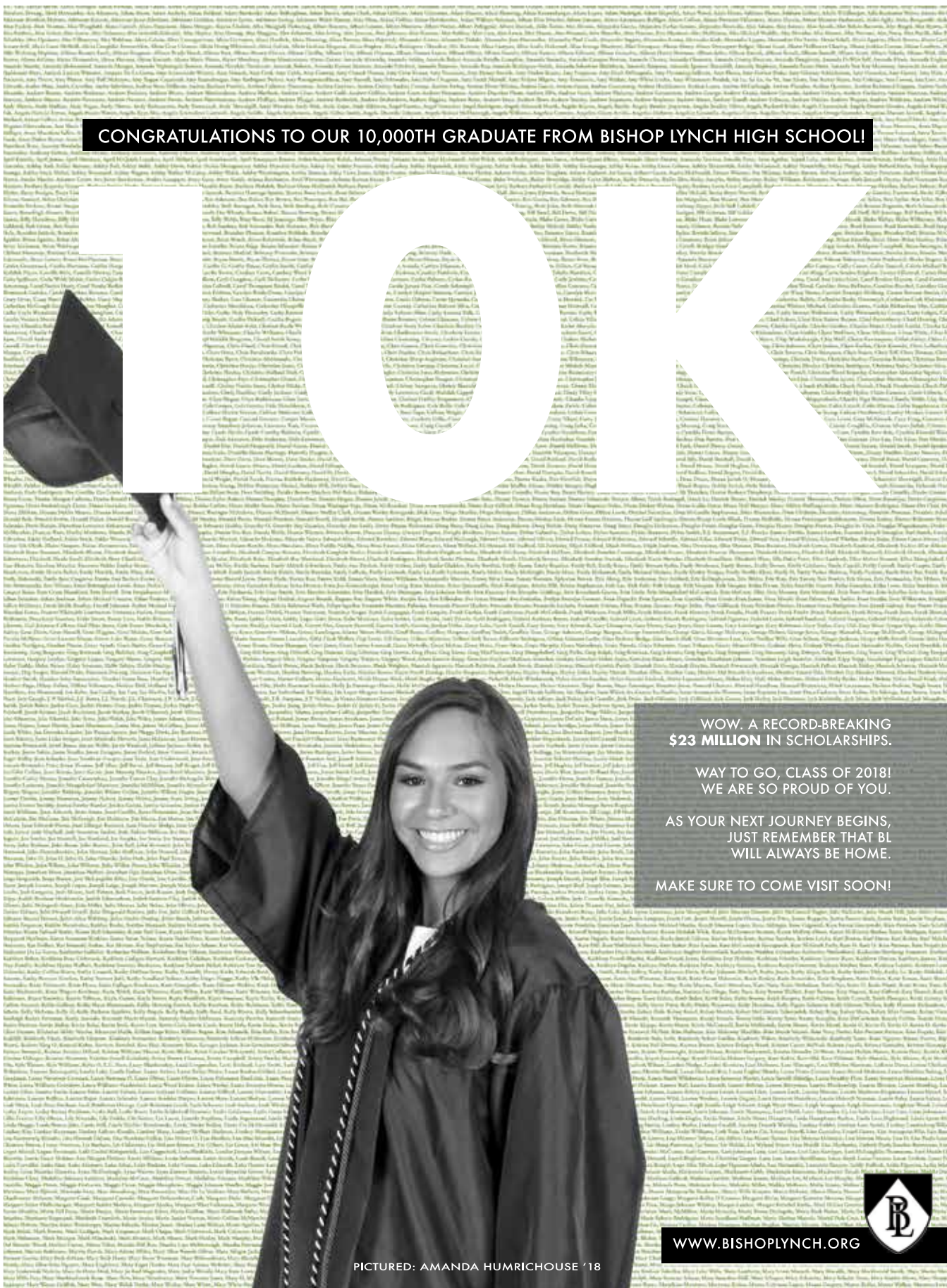
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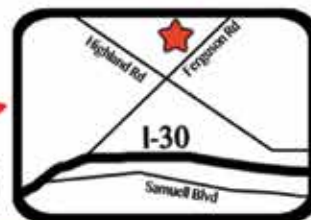




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*As of August 2018*

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To view the full membership list of FRI as of July 31, 2018 visit [www.fergusonroad.org/membership/community-connection/](http://www.fergusonroad.org/membership/community-connection/)



## East Lake Pet Orphanage Supports the Rescue Network



by Mari L. Madison

Neighborhood pages on social media and websites have become the 21st century version of posting lost dog fliers on telephone poles. And if you spend any time on-line, chances are you have noticed the name East Lake Pet Orphanage (ELPO).

ELPO, a 501(C)(3) non-profit, no-kill shelter in East Dallas, was founded in 2001, by Dr. Karen Fling, DVM. Dr. Fling started her practice, East Lake Veterinary Hospital (ELVH) in Far East Dallas in the late 1980s.

Out of a genuine love of pets of all kinds, she recognized the loose and stray dog problem early on and decided to be part of the solution. ELPO connects people and pets in our community by providing medical care, a warm place to stay, and the love the ELPO team and volunteers pour into the homeless pets that walk into their doors.

Meet Nemo, one of the recent strays to come to ELPO, after a

long swim at White Rock Lake. Nemo, was rescued by Lexie and Officer Brown (pictured below) when they saw him struggling and stepped into action. They were able to safely pull him out of the water and take him to nearby ELVH and ELPO. Now safe, he was diagnosed with heartworm disease, a potentially fatal disease for dogs. Through donations, the volunteer ELVH team, was able to start the painful and cost-prohibitive process to try and save Nemo. You can find out more about Nemo's progress on the ELPO website at [www.eastlakedallas.com/elpo/nemos-rescue-story/#](http://www.eastlakedallas.com/elpo/nemos-rescue-story/#)



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Level of Support (check one)	Benefits
<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 per year for 3 years (\$3,000 total)	Donor plaque, quarterly recognition in the FRI NewsFlash (e-blast), 15% discount on advertising in FRIdays (semi-annual news magazine, mailed to 18,000 households), semi-annual recognition at Town Hall meetings, & annual recognition in FRIdays.
<input type="checkbox"/> \$2,500 per year for 3 years (\$7,500 total)	All of the above, plus bi-annual recognition in FRIdays.
<input type="checkbox"/> \$5,000 per year for 3 years (\$15,000 total)	All of the above, plus recognition logo on the FRI web site home page.
<input type="checkbox"/> \$7,500 per year for 3 years (\$22,500 total)	All of the above, plus semi-annual recognition on our FaceBook and Instagram platforms
<input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000 – \$50,000 My pledge is for \$_____ per year for 3 years.	All of the above, plus a recognition banner on the FRI web site home page, quarterly recognition on our FaceBook and Instagram platforms, & recognition at all special events.

### Contact and Payment Information

**INDIVIDUAL:** Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Personal Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**BUSINESS/NONPROFIT:** Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Company Name : \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Employees: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Business Address: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Business Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Business Email: \_\_\_\_\_

▶ **To join or renew by check:** please mail your check to: FRI, P.O. Box 570417, Dallas, TX 75357.

▶ **To join or renew by credit/debit card:** Please complete the information below, or log in to our website: [fergusonroad.org/membership/join](http://fergusonroad.org/membership/join)

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: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing address if different than above: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Please renew my membership automatically when it expires. (Must provide credit/debit card information in this membership form).

## Help FRI with a Single Click!

You can help the Ferguson Road Initiative (FRI) by simply clicking a link? It won't cost you a dime or anytime. Amazon Smile Foundation donates 0.5 percent of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice. We want you to choose FRI as your organization when you do online shopping.

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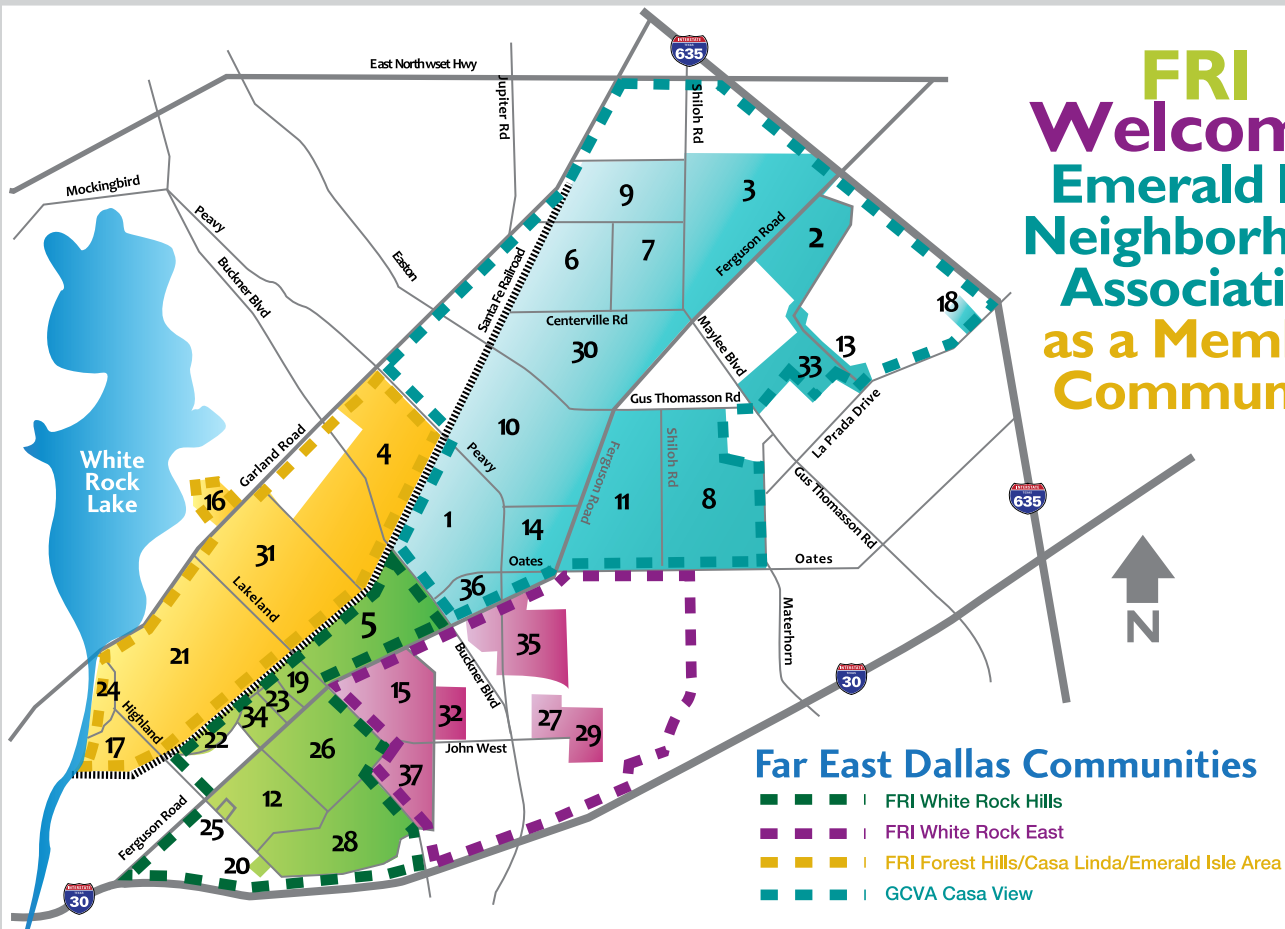
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Learn more @citycu.org



\*Annual Percentage Yield. All rates subject to change without notice. Penalty may be imposed for early withdrawal of funds and may reduce earnings. See brochure for details. Community Banked by FCU.

## FRI Welcomes Emerald Isle Neighborhood Association as a Member Community



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!

- 1 - Alger Park/Ash Creek NA (1153)  
[www.crimewatch1153.org](http://www.crimewatch1153.org)  
214-967-5191 (Voicemail)
- 2 - Braeburn Glen CW (1132)  
[www.braeburn-glen.com](http://www.braeburn-glen.com)  
214-967-5078 (Voicemail)
- 3 - Briarwood NA (1258)  
[www.briarwoodna.com](http://www.briarwoodna.com)
- 4 - Casa Linda Estates NA  
[www.casalindaestates.com](http://www.casalindaestates.com)
- 5 - Casa Linda Forest NA  
214-967-5076 (Voicemail)
- 6 - Casa View Heights CW (1129)

- 7 - Casa View Heights CW (1130)  
[anneteague@sbcglobal.net](mailto:anneteague@sbcglobal.net)
- 8 - Casa View Heights CW (1156)
- 9 - Casa View CW (1115)
- 10 - Casa View Haven NA (1135)  
[www.casaviewhaven.org](http://www.casaviewhaven.org)
- 11 - Casa View Oaks NA  
[casaviewoaks.com](http://casaviewoaks.com)
- 12 - Claremont Addition NA (1199)  
[claremontaddition@sbcglobal.net](mailto:claremontaddition@sbcglobal.net)  
[www.claremontaddition.org](http://www.claremontaddition.org)
- 13 - Club Manor NA  
[clubmanorhoa@yahoo.com](mailto:clubmanorhoa@yahoo.com)

- 14 - Crestview Park NA
- 15 - Eastwood Hills NA  
[www.eastwoodhillsdallas.com](http://www.eastwoodhillsdallas.com)  
[info@eastwoodhillsdallas.com](mailto:info@eastwoodhillsdallas.com)
- 16 - Emerald Isle NA
- 17 - Enclave at White Rock HOA
- 18 - Estates at Forest Hills HOA  
[www.estatesatforesthills.com](http://www.estatesatforesthills.com)  
[info@estatesatforesthills.com](mailto:info@estatesatforesthills.com)
- 19 - Fairway Estates HOA
- 20 - Forest Creek HOA
- 21 - Forest Hills Association  
[www.foresthillsdallas.org](http://www.foresthillsdallas.org)
- 22 - Forest Meade HOA

- 23 - Forest Oaks NA
- 24 - Highland on the Creek
- 25 - Highlands Apartments CW
- 26 - Hillridge CW  
214-967-5080 (Voicemail)  
[hillridgecrimewatch@yahoo.com](mailto:hillridgecrimewatch@yahoo.com)
- 27 - Hillview Terrace NA  
214-967-5160 (Voicemail)
- 28 - Lakeland Hills CW  
214-967-5084 (Voicemail)
- 29 - Light Pointe Place HOA
- 30 - Little Casa View  
[ferrismichelle@hotmail.com](mailto:ferrismichelle@hotmail.com)

- 31 - Little Forest Hills NA  
[lfnneighborhood@swbell.net](mailto:lfnneighborhood@swbell.net)
- 32 - Skyline Heights CW
- 33 - St. Andrews CW  
[jessicakyoung@me.com](mailto:jessicakyoung@me.com)
- 34 - Stonegate at Forest Hills
- 35 - Truett CW  
[www.truettareacw.org](http://www.truettareacw.org)
- 36 - White Rock Forest NA
- 37 - White Rock Village CW  
[info@neighborhoodlink.com](mailto:info@neighborhoodlink.com)  
214-967-5190 (Voicemail)





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