

KRAMER ELEMENTARY NEWS!

New Principal at Kramer!

Kramer Elementary has a new Principal, **Katie Wanserski**. Her previous position was Head of School at an urban school in Boston, Massachusetts. She replaces **Menay Harris**, who after serving as Kramer's Principal for a number of years, has accepted another position in DISD. Welcome, Ms. Wanserski!



Pre-School Group

Neighbor **Abby Mayer** has formed a new pre-school group for parents and families in the HFNA neighborhood. Children do not have to be Kramer-bound to join in the fun!

The group offers an opportunity for parents to get to know each other, share information regarding area schools and kid-friendly activities, and build a more connected neighborhood. For more information, contact Abby (who lives on Baxtershire Drive) at abbymayer4@gmail.com.



POLICE PATROL ADDING HOURS

Police Patrol president **Beverly Houston** on Azalea Lane had informed us that your increased participation has enabled them to add patrol hours for the remainder of this year and – if everyone will renew or join – they can also add patrol shifts in 2015.

In addition, the Patrol's board has studied police reports to identify days of the week and hours of the night & day when crime is more prevalent, and is working with the Dallas Police to target more patrol shifts at those times, increasing the effectiveness of your financial support.

In the first year of operation, burglaries and vehicular break-ins were reduced over 20% from previous years, and we hope (and expect) that the additional and more targeted patrol hours will continue to improve our results. If you are in the Patrol area (south of Forest, east of Hillcrest), we really need everyone to sign up! Due to our high participation rate, the price is a bargain compared to other Police Patrols which charge as much as \$600 a year. **So we need you!**

2014 - 2015 STEERING COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT Bruce Wilke	ZONING Tracey Bailey	LIAISON Renee Saulnier
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NEWSLETTER Melinda Cato Cross	EVENTS – PARADE Abby Mayer	Cris Robinson
MEMBERSHIP Lorraine Hellinghausen	HISTORIAN Jane Pak	Audrey Naarden
		Wendy Palmer
		Cathy Gilberg

Many of you know that our neighborhood association has a web site, HillcrestForest.org. If you haven't seen it recently, check it out. There are links to topics including Home Security, Zoning, Traffic, Recycling, Schools, Churchill Recreation Center, City Service Phone Numbers, and much more. We update our web site much more often than we can mail out newsletters, so you may want to add it to your "favorites" or "bookmarks" and check back regularly to see what's going on!

CHECK IT OUT!
HillcrestForest.org


Hillcrest Forest
Neighborhood
Association
7107 Churchill Way
Dallas, Texas 75230



HillcrestForest.org

Fall 2014

Support Your
"BEST NEIGHBORHOOD IN THE CITY!"
~Dallas Morning News

JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

Membership Envelope enclosed

When you join or renew, you will receive:

- Newsletters, plus periodic email updates with timely information
- Notices of any zoning request and land use changes in your area
- A "Good Neighbors" directory in the early spring, with your neighbors' contact information
- Invitations to neighborhood meetings and events
- An invitation to the members-only HFNA annual meeting and Home Tour in May, next spring.



Your membership supports our volunteers in protecting and improving the quality of life in our neighborhood.

JOIN THE 5 STAR ENP PRIVATE POLICE PATROL

If you are South of Forest Lane, East of Hillcrest Road

As a convenience for our HFNA members who live south of Forest Lane and east of Hillcrest Road, we are combining our annual membership with that of the 5 Star ENP, the private Police Patrol in that area.

We are separate organizations, but due to our common interest in making our neighborhood more secure, the HFNA works closely with the ENP ("Expanded Neighborhood Patrol") and supports their efforts. HFNA President Bruce Wilke serves on their board.

If you live in the Police Patrol area, the membership envelope enclosed with this newsletter gives you the option to join either group, or both. We hope that you will choose both. Likewise, if you pay online through our web site (which uses the PayPal system to process credit cards), you will have the same option. But our organizations appreciate your support at any level.

If you live north of Forest or west of Hillcrest and would like to administer and run a Police Patrol program, please contact Bruce Wilke at b-wilke@swbell.net and let him know!

To pay online, go to our website: HillcrestForest.org.
Please renew now for 2015 to save us a reminder notice! Thank you!



ONLY HFNA MEMBERS ATTEND OUR POPULAR SPRING HOME TOUR!

Be sure and join us so you can tour some of the best homes in our best neighborhood. Check out some past homes at HillcrestForest.org . . . then join us!!

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LETTER FROM PRESIDENT BRUCE WILKE

Almost every month, our Association is notified of a lost dog or a found pet. It would be devastating to lose a family member, and after being notified, the HFNA has facilitated many happy reunions. Others, sadly, do not have such a happy ending.

Does your dog or cat have a Microchip? That's a great start, but not foolproof. In a study, only 22% of lost dogs without microchips made it home. The percentage rose to 52% if the dog had a microchip. With cats, only 2% without chips were returned; 39% with chips were.



Why are so many pets with microchips not reunited?

- (a) Out-of-date information in the national database (the owner has moved or changed phone numbers), or
- (b) Owner information was never added to the database.

This happens surprisingly often, including with our own dog. We knew he was micro-chipped, but when we checked the database, we found that there was no information attached to the number. Yikes!

If your pet doesn't have microchip: PLEASE have it done! They're tiny and inexpensive. And be sure that your contact information is entered into the online database!

If your pet has a microchip:

First, get the number from your veterinarian. Major pet stores also have a scanner and can tell you the number. Then check the database at petlink.net to see if the number is registered. Your pet's name and breed should appear (but no owner information, for privacy). If you have not moved or changed phone numbers since acquiring the pet, you should be fine.

But if you have moved or changed a phone number since your pet was chipped, talk with your vet about how to verify your current information. Correct it if necessary. You can also check it yourself at petlink.net, but you'll need to register and create an account.

If you FIND a dog: First, take it to a veterinarian or a major pet store like PetSmart on Inwood Road. Ask them to scan it for a chip. If it has one, they can look up the owner's name and phone number. This is probably all you need for a happy ending. If there is no chip, you can also contact the HFNA through our web site and we can send an email to our members.

If you find a cat: Usually it is not lost. Unlike dogs, some cats roam the neighborhood 24/7. The cat will almost always return home if left alone. However, if you feed it, it may start hanging around to take advantage of the free food, leading you to believe that it is lost. If you believe that it really is lost, take it to a vet to have it scanned for a chip.

Bottom line, please don't take a chance with your pet. Be sure it has a microchip and that the chip is correctly registered.

KEEP UP TO DATE . . . HillcrestForest.org

HFNA MEMBERS MAKE A MAJOR DONATION TO THE KRAMER PLAYGROUND!



Last year, the playground of our neighborhood school, Arthur Kramer Elementary, lost several major pieces of play equipment which were old and deemed unsafe for continued use. The playground is not only used by Kramer students, but after-hours and on weekends by neighborhood children who are pre-school or attend other schools. It is basically our only local park for kids.

The Kramer PTA raised \$15,000 toward restoring the playground. But that was not enough, which was going to force them to borrow money. But then, many generous Hillcrest Forest Neighborhood Association members stepped up and nearly doubled the funding, donating an additional \$14,000 to Kramer. Your checks were presented to PTA President **Jennifer Burks** at the HFNA's Annual Meeting in May.

After she recovered from her excitement and astonishment, she said that "they were so very fortunate to be part of such a great community", and that she was overwhelmed by the generosity of Kramer's neighbors.

A very special THANK YOU goes out to our wonderful neighborhood donors:



Barbara & Mark Ashworth
Tracey & Justin Bailey
Lisa & John Bazil
Shirley & Robert Bice
Terry & Rick Case
Marti & Mike Chalk
Britney & Jeremy Clark
Calvin & Cecilia Colbert
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Gracie & Paul Terrill
Mark & Rachel Thieberg
Dorothy & Tom Timmins
Kenn Webb & Harriet Tabb
Michael & Julie Weinberg
Bruce Wilke
Nelson Wood
Hillcrest Forest Neighborhood Association

OUR STARS & STRIPES CELEBRATION WAS A BLAST!

The streets around Kramer Elementary turned Red-White-and-Blue on the 4th of July, with over 200 neighbors participating in the HFNA's annual parade. Cars, bicycles, tricycles, strollers, wagons, and some crazy pets were dressed in patriotic colors!



HFNA board member **Abby Mayer** organized the parade (thank you!) with the help of some very kind volunteers. Supporting groups and participants included:

- ~ Our local **Whole Foods Market** (Supplied some wonderful food!)
- ~ **City Vet Pet Care** at Preston Royal (Judged the "Best Dressed Pet contest and provided pet goody bags!)
- ~ **Kramer PTA** (Thank you for the water!)
- ~ **Dallas Fire & Rescue** (Led the parade with a fire truck!)
- ~ **Churchill Recreation Center** (Brought the sound system!)
- ~ **5 Star ENP / Hillcrest East Crime Watch** (Our local private Police Patrol!)
- ~ **Advocate Magazine**
- ~ **The Friends of Northaven Trail**
- ~ **Bill Naifeh of Naifeh Photography** (Shot some great photos!)

We had a balloon maker, a face painter, and many give aways for kids & adults. The weather was especially nice this year, which made for a great neighborhood event. You can see photos on our website, www.hillcrestforest.org.

Our thanks to all who came & participated!



ANNUAL MEETING SHOWS OFF OUR BEST NEIGHBORHOOD

The HFNA held its Annual Meeting and Home Tour on May 10 at Churchill Recreation Center.

The officers and board members for 2014-2015 were elected, and \$14,000 in donations for the Kramer playground were presented to the Kramer's PTA president, **Jennifer Burks**. Following the meeting, attendees were invited to tour 4 fascinating neighborhood homes, in a tour organized by board members **Melinda & Keith Cross**. Our thanks to the great neighbors who opened their homes for two hours! See photos on our website! If you would be interested in opening your home for the tour next year, please contact our president, **Bruce Wilke** at b-wilke@swbell.net.