



Hillcrest Forest Neighborhood Association

HillcrestForest.org

Fall 2016

IT'S TIME TO JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

SUPPORT YOUR HILLCREST FOREST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

A membership envelope is enclosed to renew for the coming year. Please do it now, to save us the cost of a reminder mailing! Thank you!



45% Drop in Crime in the 5 Star ENP Patrol Area

Reported crime has dropped dramatically in the first 3 years in the 5 Star ENP – down over 45%. Building on this, the organization recently increased patrol hours.

In addition to 4-hour daytime patrols by Dallas Police, the ENP has added 8-hour, late-night patrols by Smith Protective Services. Smith's dedicated officer now patrols on most nights while we sleep.

The ENP is able to fund this major increase in hours with a modest increase in dues – to \$160 for a Basic membership (which sponsors a 4-hour police shift), or \$200 for "Basic Plus" (the cost of a late-night patrol). Over half of the households donate at the "Basic Plus" level, and some donate even more. This is still among the least expensive patrol services in Dallas.

- If you live in the 5 Star ENP area, your financial support enables:
- 4-hour Dallas Police patrols on weekdays and some weekends.
- All-night armed security patrols (members know which nights)
- Police periodically run radar on streets with a high incidence of speeding.
- Members can request added surveillance for their home when out of town.
- Members receive Smith's late night dispatch number. Add this to your cell phone, and during Smith's hours, you can call them directly if you see or hear something suspicious or if your car alarm goes off. If you are away from home and your house alarm sends an alert, call Smith and their officer can be at your home within minutes, during their patrol hours.

This increase is only possible with your support, so if you live in the 5 Star ENP area, please use the enclosed membership envelope to renew or join – and be sure to add your \$15 dues for our neighborhood association! To pay by credit card, go to www.hillcrestforest.org.

According to the ENP's President Beverly Houston, "With over 60% resident participation now, we have been able to increase hours of coverage every year." And increase neighborhood security, as well.

The 5 Star ENP ("Expanded Neighborhood Patrol") is separate from the Hillcrest Forest Neighborhood Association, but they are within our boundaries and we work closely with them.

CHECK YOUR PET'S MICROCHIP



You might be surprised at how many lost & found dogs we hear about in this neighborhood. Please – be sure your dog or cat has a microchip, and ask your veterinarian to verify that your information is current. The chips only have a number which is linked to owner information on an online database. A surprising number of database entries are out-of-date or even blank.

Don't take a chance with losing a close family member – we suggest that you verify that your pet has a microchip and that your information on the database is current.



SECURE YOUR MAIL

Nearly every year, we hear of mail being taken from someone's mailbox, or a package being stolen from a front doorstep. It has happened both in broad daylight and late at night. If your mailbox is outside (not a slot in your door), remember to retrieve your mail promptly. It may contain a credit card or financial statement. Also check periodically for expected packages left at your door, so they are not visible from the street for an extended time, and don't put out mail for the mailman too far ahead.

COYOTES & BOBCATS

We get regular reports of coyotes and bobcats in our neighborhood. According to wildlife experts, they exist in just about every part of Dallas. Their favorite dens are under wood decks and under sheds which are slightly elevated from the ground. Their diet is primarily rodents and rabbits.

Attacks on humans, including children, are almost unheard of, and dogs are at greater risk of being lost or hit by a car than being attacked by a predator. But small dogs (in the 10-15 pound range) and also cats are at a slight risk if allowed to remain outside for extended periods, especially at night.

According to the experts: Pet food left outside can attract predators, and bird feeders attract birds, squirrels, and mice – a predator buffet. If you have a small dog, you might minimize its time outside after dark, and if you have a cat, don't let it roam the neighborhood. Trapping predators will not eliminate them, because a new one simply moves into the territory. Basically, coyotes and bobcats were here first, and we are the guests!

2016 - 2017 STEERING COMMITTEE

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REPRESENTATIVES:

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Darlene Robertson

Cris Robinson

Audrey Naarden

Wendy Palmer

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LETTER FROM PRESIDENT BRUCE WILKE About the Security Patrols

On our annual surveys, Security is the most-mentioned concern of our members. We now have part-time Security patrols covering 85% of our area.

You may think that their main job is catching thieves, but in reality, the Police and Smith patrols are effective because the mere sight of them scares thieves out of the neighborhood. It would take a lot of luck to be in the right place at the right time to actually catch someone, yet reported crime has dropped dramatically in the 5 Star ENP area in the past 3 years – a 45% decline.

I believe that there is also a security benefit for nearby streets that do not have patrols yet, because the bad guys don't know where the patrol boundaries are – they just see Security patrolling our neighborhood and decide that they will go elsewhere.

In the past 3 years, our association has played a part in:

- The implementation of the highly-successful 5 Star ENP by Beverly Houston.
- The formation of the Churchill Way ENP north of Forest Lane last November.
- Our board took a leading role in negotiating this benefit from Alcuin School and now manages those patrols.
- The addition of all-night patrols by Smith Protective Services in the 5 Star ENP.
- Hillcrest Forest funding of Police radar on streets with a higher incidence of speeders. Plus, when people passing through our neighborhood see a Dallas cop pointing a radar gun at them, that says "Police Presence".

You can help. If you are in the 5 Star ENP area, PLEASE support them by joining. More members = more patrol hours. More patrol hours = more security. They are funded entirely by you, our residents.

If you are in the Churchill Way ENP area, you simply need to join or renew your membership in our association, because only Hillcrest Forest members are informed of patrol details and provided with Smith's dispatch number.

These two ENPs – with our Association's active involvement – are making our neighborhood more secure. **Please add your support.**

CHURCHILL WAY ENP PATROL

This new patrol service was launched in January for homes north of Forest Lane and west of Hillcrest Road. It is funded by Alcuin School on Churchill Way, as part of an agreement related to their 2015 re-zoning. It is managed by the Patrol Committee of the Hillcrest Forest Neighborhood Association.



In addition to security patrols, the off-duty Dallas police sometimes run radar on Churchill Way and Willow Lane to control speeding. Over 100 speeders have already been stopped, and average speeds on those streets have dropped significantly.

If you live in that area and wish to receive patrol details, email updates, and Smith Patrol's late-night dispatch number, you must be a Hillcrest Forest member – so be sure to join with the enclosed envelope. Or you can pay online at www.hillcrestforest.org.



HOME TOUR

Following the annual meeting, members had a chance to tour 3 very interesting homes in our neighborhood, plus something new: the Kramer Elementary Learning Garden behind the school. Our thanks to the 3 generous families who opened their homes for the tour, and also to Kramer Elementary for allowing our members have a look at their award-winning garden!

[Insert 2-3 photos from web site – including the 1st one of the Kramer Garden]



To see photos, go to our web site: www.hillcrestforest.org.

ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

At our Annual meeting in May, members were updated on our association's activities and accomplishments of the past year:



- Organized and now manage the Churchill Way ENP security patrol.
- Supporter of the 5 Star ENP patrol group. We also fund radar.
- 2016 sponsor of neighborhood events on the Northaven Trail.
- 2015-2016 sponsor of the Kramer Carnival Fall Fundraiser.
- 2016 underwriter of the Franklin-Hillcrest PTA Fundraiser.
- Donation (pending) to Kramer Elementary to replace their outdoor sports court.
- Donation (pending) of a patrol bicycle to the Dallas Police Department, for patrolling the Northaven Trail.
- 641 Hillcrest Forest members, a new high – thank you!

THE HILLCREST FOREST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Time to renew! Still only \$15. Membership envelope enclosed.

When you join or renew, you'll receive:

- Newsletters, plus periodic emails with timely information.
- Notices of any zoning requests or land use changes in your area.
- A "Good Neighbor" Directory in the early spring, with your neighbors' contact information.
- Invitations to neighborhood events.
- An invitation to the members-only Hillcrest Forest Annual Meeting and Home Tour next spring.

And most important, your membership supports our volunteers in protecting and improving the quality of life in our neighborhood. Please renew or join now, which will save us the cost of a reminder mailing. You can also renew online at www.hillcrestforest.org. Thank you!

OUR BEST 4TH OF JULY PARADE YET



Photos: Andrea Davis Photography

The streets around Kramer Elementary turned red, white & blue on the 4th of July, with over 200 neighbors participating in our association's annual parade. Classic cars, tricycles, strollers, wagons, kids, neighbors, and some crazy pets were dressed in patriotic colors.

Hillcrest Forest board member **Abby Mayer** & friends organized the parade again this year (thank you!) We also want to thank our sponsors and supporters:

Whole Foods Market
 Hollywood Feed – Natural & Holistic Pet Food
 Cheerleading.com
 Top Pot Donuts
 Arthur Kramer Elementary PTA
 Andrea Davis Photography
 Dallas Fire-Rescue
 Churchill Recreation Center

Special Guests:
 Our State Rep. Jason Villalba
 Our DISD Trustee, District 1, Edwin Flores
 Kramer Elementary Girl Scout Troop
 Capt. Max Schanbaum, Smith Protective Services

You can go to our web site to see the great photos, courtesy of Andrea Davis Photography: www.hillcrestforest.org