

Hillcrest Forest Neighborhood Association

HillcrestForest.org

Spring 2015

ANNUAL MEETING & HOME TOUR

Mark your calendar to attend our association's annual meeting on Saturday, May 9th, at 1:00 p.m. It will be immediately followed by our 2014 Home & Garden Tour.

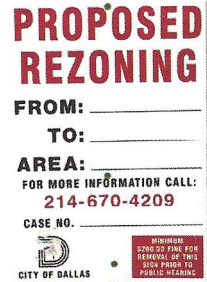
The meeting will be held in the Churchill Recreation Center at the intersection of Hillcrest Road and Churchill Way. After a brief meeting, we will adjourn for our 8th annual Home & Garden tour. This tour has been a big hit, as HFNA members get a chance to look inside some very interesting homes in our neighborhood. As always, this year's tour will be open only to our own members who are at the Annual Meeting.

The weather is usually beautiful in May, and everything is green and blooming. You won't want to miss it!

IMPORTANT NEIGHBORHOOD ZONING ISSUES

North Haven Gardens

The rear half of the property on Northaven Road was sold last year to a developer who will construct 31 single family homes on small lots. These will serve as a transition between the large-lot homes to the west and the institutional use of the Jewish Community Center on the east. Prices are expected to be in the \$600,000 range. Construction should start this summer. Several important protections for the neighbors were included in the new zoning, and the Board of the HFNA did not support or oppose this change.



Unity Church

A developer received zoning approval for small-lot single family homes on the vacant east half of the Unity Church property on Forest Lane. The HFNA conditionally supported the request, as it was in line with other small-lot developments nearby. As part of the agreement, the development will leave green space and trees near the street, in contrast to a brick wall at the sidewalk.

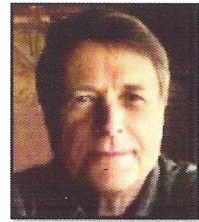
Alcuin School

Alcuin School has applied for full high school classes on its campus. Alcuin is a fine school, but this has been a controversial request. In response to significant opposition, including from the Hillcrest Forest Neighborhood Association, Alcuin offered its neighborhood \$100,000 a year for 10 years, to be used for security patrols. The outcome of the zoning case had not yet been decided as this newsletter went to press. See our web site, www.hillcrestforest.org for the current status.

LETTER FROM PRESIDENT BRUCE WILKE

Private Police Patrol

Most of you know that the area south of Forest Lane and east of Hillcrest Road has a private Police Patrol, called the 5 Star ENP (Expanded Neighborhood Patrol). Beverly Houston on Azalea Lane is the president. They are a separate organization from our HFNA, but they are located entirely within our boundaries, so we work closely together, and I sometimes communicate on their behalf. We even share a joint enrollment form for the convenience of our members.



We have been asked by residents outside of that area if it's possible to get a Police Patrol where they live. The answer is, theoretically "yes". The challenge is finding someone as hard-working as Beverly to manage it. Her 5 Star ENP group, covering 800 homes, is about as large as it can be and still be manageable.

A private Police Patrol will not eliminate crime, but in their first year, reported crime in the area dropped over 20%. We know of at least one instance in which the officers detained suspects at 2 a.m. which led to an arrest.

If you live outside that area and would be interested in managing such an organization, please let me know at b-wilke@swbell.net. It would mean a minimum 2-3 year commitment, and probably 2-3 hours of work a week, on average.

Everyone who lives in the Patrol area owes Beverly Houston a huge "Thank You" for what she has done for that part of our neighborhood.



WE HEARD YOU!

Every year, we have a blank line on our membership form where members can tell us of any neighborhood concerns that they have. The results? First, 60% of members didn't state any concern! This is very positive.

Of those who did, the leading concern was Crime & Security, which was mentioned by 27% of our members. We are considered a low-crime area, but that doesn't mean that it's not good to be aware.

Number 2 on the list – at 4% – was speeding on residential streets, and this was throughout our Association area.

Neighborhood appearance/beautification/cleanliness came in 3rd.

Altogether, 28 different concerns were mentioned. Some neighbors listed more than one. You can see the complete list on our web site.

The Hillcrest Forest Neighborhood Association has communicated these issues to our City Council representative, Lee Kleinman, for his information.

