

White Lake Hills Neighborhood Association

Member Fort Worth League of neighborhood Associations

Spring 2010

Volume 2, Issue 1



President's Message



First of all, congratulations to Mrs. Elaine Mireles and her family for allowing her to serve as president of the White Lake Hills Neighborhood Association for two years. Secondly, I would like to say thank you for allowing me to serve as your president for the 2010 year. We have some hills to climb but with commitment from our officers and volunteers, we will make it happen. Currently, we are in the progress of installing playground equipment and water in Smith-Wilemon Park. Also, I plan to print an updated directory during the 2010 year

President WLHNA

Johnnie Young

Park Improvements

Smith-Wilemon park will soon be receiving some much needed additions in the form of playground equipment, and, at long last, a water fountain! For the last several years (and Association Presidents) we have been trying get some park improvements made on Smith-Wilemon park. We have applied for at least two grant programs from the city, asked the city council, worked any angle we could find, but the results were always the same. We were turned down.

Last year however, our luck started to change. Then President, Elaine Mireles, reached out to Mercedes Bolen at Chesapeake Energy, explaining that we needed to get a water source in the park for drinking and watering the vegetation. We are pleased to announce that Chesapeake donated 8100.00 for the installation of this water source.

With our good luck continuing, late last year Elaine received word from John Dial of the Fort Worth Parks Department that revenue derived from the gas drilling around the park were now available and that we would be allotted 28,000.00 for playground equipment. We will be receiving a swing set, and bounce bucket (4 person teeter totter) along with improvements to the grounds where the items will be placed.

Next Neighborhood Association Meeting:

- Monday, April 12, at 7pm
- Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge Street

Agenda

1. Call to order
2. Approve minutes
3. COPS Report
4. Treasurer's report
5. Approval of the budget
6. Special events report
7. Park report

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Minutes from January meeting

Minutes of the White Lake Hills January 11, 2010 Meeting

The quarterly meeting of the White Lake Hills Neighborhood Association was held Monday, January 11, 2010 at the Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge Street, Fort Worth, Texas.

President Elaine Mireles called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

The President called for approval of the minutes from the October 12 meeting.

The minutes were unanimously approved.

NPO Tamelia Reddick reported that recently, a few cars had been broken into. All were unlocked. She advises residents to keep valuables and garage door openers locked away.

She then reported that Code Blue training will be at the Police Academy on Saturday, October 17. During March, Census takers will be knocking on residents' doors. They will have badges and only need to ask how many people live in your home. East Division Commander Captain Gene Jones then spoke. Captain Jones said that the theme of his command will be "revitalization". He stressed the need for improvement of quality of life for all East side residents. Captain Jones will be conducting "neighborhood service walks" with officers in order to determine the needs of East side residents. He also stated that the "C.O.R.E" program (Communities Organized to Revitalize the Eastside) has been initiated, and it includes the WHLNA, as well as every neighborhood association on the Eastside, which encompasses a large area, to encourage cooperation and discussion between the neighborhoods and the Eastside Division.

President Mireles then introduced Mercedes Belham from Chesapeake Energy, who presented the neighborhood with a check for \$8,100.00 to provide water for Smith Wilemon Park. Chesapeake also provided 10 computers to the Eastside Montessori Academy, as well as sponsoring a school field trip to NASA for the students. She also advised residents that division order checks will soon be on their way to residents.

She then introduced a Chesapeake leaflet that features White Lake Hills residents Bill & Donna Hanna.

Councilman Danny Scarth then presented Elaine Mireles with a letter thanking her for her service and commitment to White Lake Hills as president of the neighborhood association.

President Mireles called Earl Middlebrook forward for the Nominating Committee report.

The White Lake Hills Neighborhood Association Nominating Committee Officers for 2010 were:

Mary Lou Robertson, chair

Dr. Bill Hanna

Bonnie Buell

Pat Kuehn

Earl Middlebrook

The committee members consulted by telephone and agreed on the following nominees to present to the membership:

President, Johnnie Young

Vice-President, Mike Click

Secretary, Sarah Green

Treasurer, Bob Curtis

Parliamentarian, Lucy Middlebrook

A movement was made to unanimously elect the nominees by acclamation. The movement was seconded and then approved by the members.

President Mireles then presented the Steve Chaney Award to Damon Dockstader for outstanding service to the neighborhood.

President Mireles then opened the floor to members. Bonnie Buell from the White Lake Hills Woman's Club stressed the importance of getting information to be published in the quarterly newsletter in a timely manner. Among other issues discussed, it was noted that The Good Neighbor Award sign has been stolen, and will need to be replaced. President Mireles thanked the members for their support during her term. Charles Edmonds then announced that XTO Energy has proposed drilling pad sites behind the Motel 6 on Oakland, and Councilman Danny Scarth reminded members that the drilling pad proposal would be up for approval at the City Council Meeting the next evening.

President-Elect Johnnie Young then spoke, stating that he looks forward to serving White Lake Hills as president in the coming year. He stressed his goals for bringing in great new neighbors to fill the homes currently for sale in the neighborhood, and asked neighbors to recruit friends and acquaintances to live here.

A movement was then made for adjournment.

All seconded, and the meeting closed at 7:47 pm

Respectfully Submitted

By: Sarah Green

Chesapeake Update

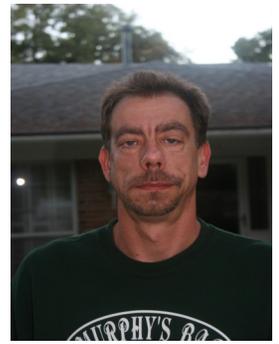
Many of us have come to know Mercedes Bolen of Chesapeake Energy. I am happy to announce that in March she gave birth to a baby boy named Brady.



Handyman's Corner

By Franklin Bell

Since I've had the opportunity to work in many of the homes in the neighborhood, I thought I'd use this article to discuss some of the most frequent repairs that my business Paliskin Industries LLC performs. Most of our homes were built in phases throughout the late sixties and early seventies. Over the course of time, normal wear and tear has taken a toll on these items in our homes. I recommend that you add these to your list of things to check this spring.



Neighborhood Cleanup

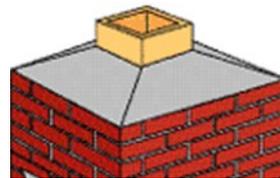
The Cowtown Great American Clean Up will be held April 10, starting at 9:00am, at Smith Wilemon Park. The clean up will go until 12:30 at which time lunch will be provided at Smith Wilemon Park. Last year the City provided hot dogs, chips, cake, and soft drinks. Some of the neighbors have volunteered to bring additional food that people on restricted diets can eat. Participants are encouraged to bring food to share, such as veggie burgers, fruit, granola bars, and unsweetened ice tea. After lunch will be a neighborhood get together.

Those who want to register via the internet should go to www.fortworthgov.org/dem. There is a registration form that comes up on the website. You can fill it out and submit it online. If anyone needs to fill out the paper form, it can be printed from this email and faxed to Deborah Branch at 817-392-5170. If anyone needs further information, they can call Deborah at 817-392-5151 or email her at Deborah.branch@fortworthgov.org. They should note on their registration form that they are part of the White Lake Hills Neighborhood Association group, working in the White Lake Hills neighborhood on clean up day.

Seniors and others not physically able to participate in the clean up are invited to come in the morning and help direct active volunteers, if they'd like, or they are welcome to come for lunch and the get together after the clean up. Neighbors are encouraged to bring chairs, games, cards, and musical instruments. Power will not be available at the park to plug in electric instruments, but those with their own power sources, such as batteries, are welcome.

Ross Stephens is attempting to organize a bike ride around the White Lake Hills neighborhood. Participants will be able to pick up bikes after the clean up so that they need not be left unattended in the park during the clean up. Ross' purpose is to get the neighborhood riders comfortable with riding around the neighborhood so we can eventually hook up with surrounding cities to promote the Link Our Trails effort.

1. Chimney crown- The chimney crown sits right by the opening of the chimney at the very top. The purpose of the crown is to help water drain away from the chimney. This protects the bricks, mortar, joints and internal elements of the fireplace. After years of exposure to the weather the mortar of the crown deteriorates which affects the life and integrity of the chimney. Letting this one get away from you can get costly very quickly, especially if the courses of brick start becoming loose.



2. Door handles and locks- The majority of our homes were originally secured with "Dexter" lock sets. After years of faithful service these devices are just worn out. Properly functioning locks ensure home security. When replacing locks, consider removing all double keyed deadbolts as they are a serious safety hazard to quickly exit the home in case of emergency. I also like to use lever handle door knobs instead of the common round knob, since they are easier for folks to operate. I also recommend to having your locks keyed alike to use the same key, which just makes things more convenient.

3. Shower control valves- It is almost impossible to find replacement parts for some of the original 3 handle control valves. Ensure if you're having this repair done, and your plumber can find the parts for your facet (some companies are now out of business) that both the rubber washers and brass seats (what the washer closes against to stop water flow) are replaced. The best source I have found to get these hard to find parts is Pat McCoy plumbing in Forrest Hill. It is very common that the entire valve assembly has to be replaced when these start leaking. This is normally due to the fact that the brass seats that sit under the rubber washers are too corroded into the valve body to be removed and replaced, or are stripped.

4. Toilets- Running commodes are another source of high water bills. I recommend replacing both the float and flapper at the same time, and consider having the new quarter turn water shut offs installed on the water pipe that comes out of the wall. The new quarter turn shut offs are much easier to operate and will last a lot longer. If you are updating or replacing the entire stool, there are also new, taller stools available for the home. A traditional toilet ranges from 14 to 16 inches high (floor to seat height). The ADA (American Disability Act) required height for toilets is between 16.5 and 18 inches. Until you are in need of assistance because of a disability or temporary infirmity you will never realize how important that extra 2" is in both safety and comfort.

5. Outside faucets- Any faucets that you have that are dripping should be repaired, especially before freezing temperatures set in and as a water saving measure. Consider replacing the older multi-turn gate valves with the new quarter turn valves.

Handyman's Corner (cont.)

6. Shower pans- This is the base of your shower. After years of use, the grout will deteriorate around the ceramic tile which allows water to penetrate to the pan. The pan is usually concrete poured on top of an impervious membrane. After time this can also fail which will allow water to seep out and cause damage to your walls and adjoining floors.

7. Cracks in the walls- I have only been in one home in White Lake Hills that has no cracks. The rest of us, seem to have them. Not being a native Texan I was quite concerned about these at first, But after having three different foundation companies come out and verify that this is normal for Texas and I did not have any structural issues, I can at least sleep better at night. I have a method that I have found to work well for crack repair, and if you feel like tackling this endeavor contact me and I am more than willing to share it with you.

8. Flashing and seals around skylights and chimneys- With our high summer temperatures; these items should be checked every couple of years. Our extreme heat does cause caulking to harden and fail. If you ever notice water leaking around these devices or any water stains on ceilings, you should immediately have this problem addressed. Water leaks do not get better with time or go away and if not repaired, can cost you a lot more over time.

If you ever have any questions about something home repair related please feel free to contact me, my advice is always free and I am more than happy to share with anyone the lessons I have learned. My email is franklinbell@sbcglobal.net

Bits and Pieces

Websites

We have two working websites. It was decided that White Lake Hills Neighborhood

Association could support two sites.

1. whitelakehills.org-

Damon Dockstader webmaster

2. neighborhoodlink.com type in zip 76103 White Lake Hills Neighborhood Association

Peggy Terrell webmaster

Directory updates

We are in the process of putting together a new neighborhood directory. Please send updates to Bonnie Buell bbuell@sbcglobal.net. Get them in as soon as possible so that we can have the directory ready later this year.

Happenings with the White Lake Hills Women's Club

The White Lake Hills Woman's Club

We are a group of women who do civic work for the community and form lasting friendships through our activities.

May Meeting

Date: May 6, 2010. Thursday

Time: 6:30 pm Light Refreshments

7:00 pm Program "Special Music Program"

Come join us. It is a bargain at \$20.00 a year.

Information About the Club: President Mona Bailey

817-446-0795 monbailey@mac.com

Save the date

White Lake Hills Neighborhood Christmas Party
"Merry Christmas from Us to You" December 13th,
2010. Details coming! This celebration is sponsored
by the White Lake Hills Woman's Club.

We are sad to report the passing of two Woman's Club members. Ruthe Forbes was a charter member, a longtime resident of White Lake Hills. She worked for many years for the Corp of Engineers. We also lost Mignon White who was also a charter member and an active member of our community. She was a longtime member pf St. Rita Catholic Church. God Bless their families.

The White Lake Community Trust

The White Lake Hills Community Trust will be conducting an election at the April 12th neighborhood meeting. We need to fill a vacancy on the trust. The trust recommends Martha Clare. Martha was one of the persons who signed the original Trust Agreement.

Beautification

We thank the city for mowing Lake Havasu and Smith-Wilomen Park. The city recently had some budget cuts but we will be serviced by the city. We always need help with our entrances. We do need some help at the condo entrance. If you can volunteer, please call Peggy Terrell at 827-457-2507 or 817-909-5623.

Bits and Pieces (CONT.)

From: Sukai Durosimi
Headmaster East Fort Worth Montessori Academy

To: White Lake Hills Neighborhood Association

I want to personally invite the White Lake Hills Neighborhood Association to two events. On Saturday March 27th, 2010 EFWMA will host a Science and outdoors learning workday. Please invite the neighbors to come in. It also helps the school know that the community is welcoming.

Also on May 17th to May 22 EFWMA is hosting EFW READS. We have managed to collaborate with businesses in the area that are allowing us to set up mini libraries in their place of business. We are hoping that businesses will help us promote literacy in East Fort Worth. If the neighbors would like to volunteer to read to the pre-k and kinder children in the garden on May 19th that will be great. If you have any questions please call my school cell at 817-808-4926

I hope the neighbors know that we look forward to seeing them. I'll make sure they get a warm welcome.

OFFICERS FOR 2010

PRESIDENT	JOHNNIE YOUNG	817-451-3724	johnnie.young@sbcglobal.net
VICE-PRESIDENT	MICHAEL CLICK	817-457-8007	jmclick@swbell.net
SECRETARY	SARAH GREEN	817-496-1288	axox@sbcglobal.net
TREASURER	BOB CURTIS	817-496-3724	robertcurtiscpa@netzero.net
PARLIAMENTARIAN	LUCY MIDDLEBROOK	817-781-0295	earlucy@sbcglobal.net
CODE & LAW OFFICER	MARY LOU ROBERTSON	817-457-2905	ulr04751@sbcglobal.net
BLOCK CAPTAINS	BLANCA PORRAS	817-446-1425	
SPECIAL PROJECTS	BRITTANY JERRAD	817-446-8769	blg083@aol.com

SOCIAL COMMITTEES

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE	PATSY COOPER	817-496-1531	
GOOD NEIGHBOR AWARD	ANNA ENGLAND	817-451-5607	ddocksta@yahoo.com
YARD OF THE MONTH	PAT GERARD	817-446-7273	



White Lake Hills
Neighborhood Association

We're on the Web!
www.whitelakehills.org
www.neighborhoodlink.com

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events

- 4/10 Neighborhood Clean Up
- Fourth of July Parade and Picnic
- 10/30 Neighborhood Garage Sale
- 10/31 Halloween Decorating Contest
- Walk/Run Fall Festival
- Christmas Decorating Contest

Membership in the White Lake Hills Neighborhood Association

If you are new to the neighborhood, then welcome! We are happy to have you join our community. Just a reminder that membership in our Association is free. We look forward to seeing you at the next meeting or upcoming event.

Newsletter Submissions

Going forward, the newsletter will also be available in pdf format. If you would like to be placed on the list, please email newsletter@whitelakehills.org

If you have something you would like to submit to an upcoming newsletter (stories, thoughts, concerns, pictures) please email them to newsletter@whitelakehills.org.

In Memoriam

Mignon White

Mignon was a devoted member of St. Rita Catholic Church and a tireless supporter and member of many groups, including The Sewing Club, The Altar Society, Bible Study, The Garden Club, The White Lake Hills Circle, The Dinner Club and the Get Together Club. She served on the screening committee of the Girl's Service League for many years doing her part in making it possible for young women to attend college. Mignon was also well-known in the community for her work within the Democratic Party. She was devoted to her husband for 65 years and to her family, hosting many family reunions and 50 years of family dinners for Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter.

Ruthe Forbes

Ruthe was involved in various organizations, including United Methodist Women's Organization; an honorary member of Polytechnic Methodist Church; a lifetime member of The American Business Women's Association where she held several positions; Whitelake Hills Women's Association; and the book club EntroNov in Fort Worth.

Ruthe lived an active and interesting life, loved people and was a kind and generous person. She was preceded in death by her husband, Joe W. Forbes.

George Baldock

Well known as Coach Baldock to former students, he was a retired educator and coach who touched the lives of many students during his 30 years at Meadowbrook Middle School. George was a kind and gentle man who spoke softly and put others before himself. He will be remembered for his love of the outdoors, his strong character and his steadfast commitment to family and friends.

Marty Kissinger

She will always be remembered for her caring and tireless volunteerism, including LWV, UMW, Fort Worth Nature Center, Friends of the Library, White Lake Hills HOA, AAUW, ABWA, and TCEA. But most importantly, people knew her passion and dedication to the Girl Scouts.

Marty held several leadership positions with the Girl Scouts, including master trainer and council event coordinator. In 1990 she received the Thanks Badge, which is the highest recognition for adult Girl Scouts. She also received the Glenella Scarborough Outstanding Volunteer Trainer Award among many others. Marty received her Girl Scout Numeral Guard in 2007.

We were very fortunate to have had Marty living in our neighborhood. She worked on the newsletter for many years and was an invaluable resource for persons holding office. She forever had a positive attitude and was always willing to help in any way.

Park Improvements (cont. from front)

All items will be located near the pavilion, with no destruction to trees currently in the area. Construction is set to begin later this year, with the possibility of the water source being operational by the time of our July 4th celebration. Furthermore, we were informed that the city would be responsible for the water bill, so there will be no out of pocket expense for us. This is great news for our neighborhood.