There’s nothing easy about being a City Council representative, but no one who runs for the office thinks it’s going to be a walk in the park. It’s certainly not the $25,000 annual compensation that’s the motivation. A quick calculation of the hours of meetings, hearings, retreats, and reading that are required shows that it doesn’t even come out to minimum wage. But, that’s not why Carter Burdette considered becoming a member of the Fort Worth City Council in the first place.

A graduate of Harvard Law School, Burdette grew up in Pampa, Texas. He wanted to be an engineer, but Amherst College, where he attended undergraduate school, was a liberal arts college, “and the closest degree that I could get to engineering was physics,” explains Burdette. “By the time I got to my senior year I couldn’t understand physics anymore, so I decided to go to law school.”

In his second year of law school he married his wife, Ellie, to whom he is still married. The young couple knew that after law school they wanted to come back to Texas. In 1958, the Burdette’s moved to Fort Worth where Carter began a fifty-year career as an oil and gas attorney, first with Champlin Oil & Refining Company, and then in 1962 with Carey, Hanor Law Firm. An early career highlight was a six-week trip in 1966 to Mogadishu, Somalia where he helped to negotiate an oil concession from the Somalian government for Perry Bass.

In 2005, as his legal career was winding down, Burdette was approached by City Council member John Stevenson to throw his hat in the ring for the District 7 City Council seat from which Stevenson was retiring. A political tenderfoot, Burdette was no stranger to leadership, having served on a number of civic and charitable boards and committees, including as the Chair for Streams and Valleys and a trustee for Trinity Valley School. He is still active on the board of the Fort Worth Exchange Club and recently retired as a board member of the Speedway Children’s Charities Board.

Running for City Council might not have been his life’s ambition, but it has suited him well and he has become a valuable asset to the Fort Worth City Council, not just in oil and gas matters. “He brings not only intelligence, but wisdom to the council table,” says City Councilperson Wendy Davis who has served on the Fort Worth City Council for nine years. “I am so honored to work alongside him.”

A political conservative, Burdette openly admits he’s not a politician and “I don’t think I’ll ever learn to be one.” Then, what would motivate this successful attorney who was ready to retire? “I’ve got the background and experience to be of service to the Council,” he says. “And I find it intriguing and very interesting.” Interesting enough to successfully run for second two-year term.

Every Thursday night, a city marshall delivers a ring-bound notebook to Burdette’s door, thick with the business for the next week’s Tuesday City Council meeting. Some weeks there is so much to be covered that “I can hardly carry the notebook around”. But, Burdette is a thorough and conscientious man who “reads every single page,” attests wife Ellie. And, he spends a lot of time going to meetings.

Besides the weekly City Council meetings, he attends meetings for fifteen boards and committees he serves on for the city, including the Central City Revitalization and Economic Development Committee, the Infrastructure and Transportation Committee, the

(continued on Page 8)
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AHNA is continuing to provide pertinent information and articles to its members through e-mail and this newsletter. Be sure to read the Problem Solver story on Page 6. Share this with your neighbors who aren’t emailers, especially our senior citizens who are less likely to have e-mail. If you’d like to be added to our information pipeline, please send me your e-mail.

On June 20, more than 150 neighbors attended an informational meeting sponsored by AHNA in conjunction with Crestline Neighborhood Association and West Byers Neighborhood Association. We invited Four Sevens Resources to speak at the meeting, because at that time they were the only company who had contacted Arlington Heights property owners. Since then, Dale has joined the race. All three neighborhood associations have agreed to collectively hire an oil and gas attorney to look at the standard lease form and advise us on what to delete, add, and change. Each individual property owner will still negotiate their own lease; the attorney will not do this. We estimate the attorney’s fee to be about $1,000. Our neighborhood was asked to provide $400 towards this. So far, we’ve received $185 in small donations from affected property owners, with several more verbal commitments.

With fifty years as a practicing oil and gas attorney, City Councilman Carter Burdette has the expertise and experience to enlighten us on mineral matters. He is our guest speaker at the Monday July 16 AHNA meeting. He will be discussing the practical aspects of mineral leases and the effects of the Barnett Shale on Arlington Heights. Everyone is welcome to attend. See page 3 for more information.

Some of you have asked whether AHNA will negotiate as a single group as some other neighborhoods have. We’re trying to figure out if it’s feasible to effectively organize the 2,500 households within our association and learn about the issues in a group setting. So, sit tight and stay tuned. If you’re interested in serving on the AHNA Gas Drilling Committee, please let me know.

Councilman Carter Burdette who raced cars in the 1970s is shown here in his open wheel Formula-style car with his five children in front of what is now the Fort Worth Community Art Center. (Photo by Lee Angle Photography, courtesy of Councilman Carter Burdette)

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Letter from the President

by Christina Patoski

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COUNCILMAN BURDETTETrustworthy, Reliable Service Reasonable Rates $30 and up

COUNCILMAN BURDETTJULY SPEAKER

We are pleased to have City Councilman Carter Burdette as our guest speaker at the Monday July 16 AHNA meeting. In May, Councilman Burdette was re-elected for another two-year term as our representative on the Fort Worth City Council. During his first two years in the District 7 seat, he proved to be a diligent and fair-minded councilman who is sensitive to the issues of our neighborhood. He serves on a number of boards and committees for the city, including the Executive Board of the powerful North Central Texas Council of Governments.

Following his remarks, he will take questions from our membership. Councilman Burdette has been an oil and gas attorney for 50 years, so he will be able to share his insights about how our neighborhood could approach the Barnett Shale gas lease situation. However, he'll be limited in the free legal advice he can offer due to liability issues.

Remember, he's still a lawyer!

GAS DRILLING ROUNDTABLE AT AUGUST MEETING

Barnett Shale is the big buzzword in Arlington Heights. We all want to do the right thing, but most of us don't know what to do. Before you sign anything, come to the Monday August 20 AHNA meeting and listen to what our panel of experts say and ask them all the questions you can think of. We're tapping into the wealth of intelligence in our neighborhood by inviting AHNA member Sergio Yanes who is a registered engineer at DFW Airport who manages rail access planning, commercial development planning and the natural gas planning supporting Chesapeake's natural gas exploration at the airport. Also confirmed is Howard Hudler who owns property in our neighborhood has been in the oil and gas business for 30 years and is presently with Quicksilver Resources. More panelists will be confirmed in the next few weeks. The August 20 meeting is open to everyone, not just AHNA members, so invite your friends and neighbors.

The boundaries of Arlington Heights Neighborhood Association are the triangle of Camp Bowie Boulevard on the north, Montgomery Street on the east, and Interstate Highway 30 on the south and the west.
FYI: NEIGHBORHOOD BRIEFS

The Camp Bowie Crawl ends Saturday July 14, to be sure to visit one of the 40 participating shops to enjoy special discounts and the opportunity to enter the Passport Program to win two free American Airlines tickets. This is the third year for the event which is organized by Camp Bowie District, Inc. as a way to increase awareness of Camp Bowie Blvd. as a shopping destination. Mark your calendars for Tuesday August 7 and plan to attend this year’s Night Out, sponsored by the AHNA Citizens on Patrol. It starts at 7:00pm and includes a deejay and fantastic free food from our favorite Camp Bowie eateries. There’s plenty for kids to do, including an inflatable jumping platform and the Carlton St. Station firetruck. Bring your dogs, too! Bravo to the construction crews who’ve been working holidays and weekends to install a geothermal heat pump at the new Park Cities Bank, at the corner of Tremont and Camp Bowie. They say that even though it’s more expensive to install, the heating and cooling bills will be about half of what they would be with a conventional unit. We love to see green building practices in the neighborhood. Let there be no misunderstanding, Kincaid’s is not leaving their original home at the corner of Camp Bowie and Eldridge, no matter how many new offshoots they’ve planned elsewhere. They’re opening a new Kincaid’s near Hulen Mall and will open another in Arlington in August. Southlake has been enjoying their Kincaid’s for many a year now. Recent record rains brought more flooding to some of the homes on Western. The drainage at Hulen and Bryce also continues to be a problem and a favorite spot for the news crews to go whenever there’s a downpour. Two separate rescue episodes of people trapped in cars downtown have made it on local nightly news TV shows. If you’ve had any flooding, please let Jon Vidaurri know at 817/334-8103. The Montgomery Street master plan is still in the planning stages. In order to get the plan done sooner rather than later, the adjacent property owners, including the Museum of Science and History, the Stock Show and Rodeo, North Texas Health Science Center, are raising $50,000 to pay for it. Arlington Heights has been asked to contribute $2,500 to the cause. We’ll discuss it at the July AHNA meeting. The Amon Carter Museum is closed until mid-August for preventive maintenance and repairs on the building’s fire suppression system. Your last chance to visit the Museum of Science and History will be Sunday September 2. Demolition of the building starts in October. The Omni will stay open, except for 4 to 6 month period during the construction of the new Leggoreta-designed museum. The 9th Annual Hispanic Wellness Fair takes place Saturday August 4 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Will Rogers’ Amon Carter Exhibits Hall. The fair reaches out to the Hispanic community, and is open to everyone in need of health care services, including dental, eye, blood pressure, cholesterol, diabetes and body mass testing, mammograms and cervical cancer screenings, information on HIV/AIDS, as well as social services. Back-to-school immunizations will be provided at no cost. Nearly 40 participating shops to enjoy special discounts and the opportunity to enter the Passport Program to win two free American Airlines tickets. This is the third year for the event which is organized by Camp Bowie District, Inc. as a way to increase awareness of Camp Bowie Blvd. as a shopping destination. Mark your calendars for Tuesday August 7 and plan to attend this year’s Night Out, sponsored by the AHNA Citizens on Patrol. It starts at 7:00pm and includes a deejay and fantastic free food from our favorite Camp Bowie eateries. There’s plenty for kids to do, including an inflatable jumping platform and the Carlton St. Station firetruck. 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CRIME ON THE RISE

June was a very busy month for the Fort Worth Police Department. Crime spiked throughout the city, and Arlington Heights was no exception. For many days running in May, our sector’s patrol officers noticed increased car thefts, with items stolen out of cars that were parked in area restaurant parking lots. Police caught up with three

The standard bonus offers and royalty amounts have been getting higher as time goes by, so there appears to be no rush to sign. Educate yourself and seek advice if you need it. The City of Fort Worth has an excellent web site about gas drilling, designed to help the layman understand gas leases: www.fortworthgov.org. Or call them at 817/392-2851 to request an information package. The City is sponsoring a gas drilling information meeting on Thursday July 26 at 6:30 pm in the auditorium at Botanical Gardens.

AHNA has an e-mail information pipeline for new information and meeting notices on gas drilling. To get on the list, send your e-mail to christinapatoski@earthlink.net.

Disclaimer: This information is provided to you as an informational courtesy. Arlington Heights Neighborhood Association does not lease nor provide advice about leasing private property for gas exploration and drilling, nor do they endorse or are associated with any gas exploration or drilling companies.
half of those who attend have no health insurance. For more information, call 817/871-7201 or 817/871-7220...A spectacular building restoration project is taking place at the old gas station on Camp Bowie and Sanguinet, just to the west of Lucile’s. Gasoline Alley is a pet project of Ken Hill, Sr., former Granbury pharmacist and founder of the phenomenally successful PDX Pharmaceuticals known for developing computer software for pharmacies nationwide. The old gas station houses Hill’s personal collection of museum quality vehicles including a custom Harley designed and built by Arlen Ness and Jesse James. The place never looked so good—no expense has been spared and no detail overlooked. Vintage Sinclair glass gas pumps have been installed in front of the building. Marble floors and new pressed tin ceilings have been put in, as well a soda fountain, and a private screening room. Two large interior garage bays provide room to display an antique 1936 Ford convertible and “Scamper”, a classic Hacker speed boat. Even though Hill isn’t planning to open to the public, the meticulous restoration of the old gas station adds to the character of the boulevard and illustrates how well these old buildings can be brought back to life. Let’s hope it inspires more of this kind of activity on Camp Bowie.

OFFICER MILLER RECEIVES AWARD

Arlington Heights Neighborhood Patrol Officer David Miller received the prestigious Thomas R. Windham Award in a ceremony on June 9 at Tarrant County Convention Center. The award is given annually to a business, individual or organization which has shown remarkable efforts in providing education and awareness related to the prevention and reduction of violence and crime. The award was developed as a way of honoring the late Fort Worth Police Chief.

This award means a lot to Officer Miller as well as to the other police officers in the City of Fort Worth. “Even though we receive recognitions and citations for different things in our field of work, this one is the most coveted,” Officer Miller says, “because Police Chief Thomas Windham was such a nice man and thought a lot of the City of Fort Worth, the Police Department and the citizens of Fort Worth.”

Officer Miller’s name is added to the beautiful traveling trophy that his police sector will keep for a year. Arlington Heights is very proud of you, Officer Miller.

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Almost everyone in Arlington Heights received a blanket letter from one of the two gas leasing companies which you mention. It's likely that you own your mineral rights if you received a letter. According to both Dale and Four Sevens, they did a title and deed search to find out who holds the rights and sent out their letters accordingly. If you want to double check, go to the Tarrant County Courthouse to do your own title and deed search.

Neither Four Sevens Resources or Dale Resources is actually drilling within the city limits. They operate as landmen who sign people up with lease agreements and then sell those leases to a drilling company. Chesapeake Drilling, one of the oldest and most active drillers in Tarrant County, is partnering with both Four Sevens and Dale to do the drilling on the leases these two companies are individually amassing.

For those who received letters from both companies, there is no definitive answer at this time about how to make a decision on which one to go with. Mo Bouldwin from Four Sevens says you can take your pick. AHNA is still investigating this issue.

When do the royalties start coming in? That's a question to ask the leasing company. Remember, after you get your bonus money you may never get any royalties. Signing the lease doesn't guarantee that the company will drill at all. Also, there are cases of people who signed leases but didn't get their bonus money for months and got it only after they asked for it repeatedly.

The terms on the standard lease form are negotiable, including the bonus amount, the length of the lease which is usually between one and ten years, the royalty percentage amount, whether transportation costs are taken out before your royalties or after, whether your lease can be sold to another company, the payment schedule of royalties and a number of other things. Conventional wisdom is “don't sign anything that you don't understand”. Some people, especially those who have already negotiated leases for other properties they own, might already have a handle on the lease terms. Most people don't and are well advised to seek legal or other professional advice before signing anything.

Most of the properties in Arlington Heights are less than an acre. Some neighborhood associations have banded together as a group and hired an attorney to negotiate their leases as a single group, believing that an attorney can negotiate a better deal by representing a larger body of property. Other neighborhood associations have dispersed information to their members and let them make their own decisions about the leases. AHNA is coordinating with Crestline Neighborhood Association and West Byers Neighborhood Association to hire an attorney to look over the standard lease form and advise members about what should be changed, added or deleted. The neighbors are splitting the cost which will run about $1,000, but each property owner will negotiate their leases for themselves.

AHNA is putting together a Gas Lease Committee to determine the feasibility of organizing those in the neighborhood who are interested in banding together as a single entity with an attorney to negotiate for them. Because AHNA's boundaries include more than 2,500 households, some of whom have already signed, it could prove to be a significant task, requiring a lot of volunteer manpower.

The current horizontal drilling technology allows pipelines to reach only as far as 5,000 feet from the drill site. Some companies make the claim that they can come farther than that. If a gas drilling operator requests a drilling permit within 1,000 feet of your residence, you'll be notified concerning the request.

Four Sevens says they've negotiated a drill site located behind Animal Clinic on Vickery Blvd. between Hulen and Horne, although it has yet to be built. According to a Four Sevens representative, the company is also attempting to negotiate a drill site on nine acres east of Lake Como. River Crest Country Club has negotiated a drill site deal with Four Sevens and Chesapeake on their property along the Trinity River. There is also talk of a well site on city land between Montgomery St. and Botanic Gardens.

It appears that there's no room for a drill site within the boundaries of AHNA. According to Loretta Sprague, AHNA member and an XTO landman, drill pad sites require three to four acres and must be located at least 600 hundred feet from residences, religious institutions, public buildings, hospitals, schools or public parks. Drill sites are where you get the noise and truck traffic that many neighborhoods are unhappy about. Some neighborhoods which have drill sites have been able to negotiate substantial financial donations, such as $25,000, from the gas companies to the community at large to improve a neighborhood park or other pet projects. In the case of Arlington Heights, the drill site(s) will be too far away to negatively impact the neighborhood.

A number of residents in Arlington Heights are opposed to the drilling altogether and do not plan to sign a lease. Not signing a lease will not stop the drilling companies from drilling. Natural gas can be removed from under property without disturbing the surface. Because the companies are drilling underneath your property they can lay pipeline around your property if necessary. Blocking the drilling requires a significant number of strategically located property owners to protest via petitions. In the case of Arlington Heights, most people seem eager to get their bonus money as soon as possible.
**F Y I: NEIGHBORHOOD BRIEFS**

The Camp Bowie Crawl ends Saturday July 14, so be sure to visit one of the 40 participating shops to enjoy special discounts and the opportunity to enter the Passport Program to win two free American Airlines tickets. This is the third year for the event which is organized by Camp Bowie District, Inc., as a way to increase awareness of Camp Bowie Blvd. as a shopping destination. Mark your calendars for Tuesday August 7 and plan to attend this year’s National Night Out, sponsored by the AHNA Citizens on Patrol. It starts at 7:00pm and includes a deejay and fantastic free food from our favorite Camp Bowie eateries. There’s plenty for kids to do, including an inflatable jumping platform and the Carlston St. Station firetruck. Bring your dogs, too! Bravo to the construction crews who’ve been working holidays and weekends to install a geothermal heat pump at the new Park Cities Bank at the corner of Tremont and Camp Bowie. They say that even though it’s more expensive to install, the heating and cooling bills will be about half of what they would have been with a conventional unit. We love to see green building practices in the neighborhood. Let there be no misunderstanding, Kincaid’s is not leaving their original home at the corner of Camp Bowie and Elridge, no matter how many new offshoots they’ve got planned elsewhere. They’re opening a new Kincaid’s near Hulen Mall and will open another in Arlington in August. Southlake has been enjoying their Kincaid’s for many years now. Recent record rains brought more flooding to some of the homes on Western Drive. The drainage at Hulen and Bryce also continues to be a problem and a favorite spot for the news crews to go whenever there’s a downtown. Two separate rescue episodes of people trapped in cars down there have made it on local nightly news TV shows. If you’ve had any flooding, please let Jon Vidaurri know at 817/334-8103. The Montgomery Street master plan is still in the planning stages. In order to get the plan done sooner rather than later, the adjacent property owners, including the Museum of Science and History, the Stock Show and Rodeo, North Texas Health Science Center, are raising $50,000 to pay for it. Arlington Heights has been asked to contribute $2,500 to the cause. We’ll discuss it at the July AHNA meeting. The Amon Carter Museum is closed until mid-August for preventive maintenance and repairs on the building’s fire suppression system...Your last chance to visit the Museum of Science and History will be Sunday September 2. Demolition of the building starts in October. The Omni will stay open, except for a 4 to 6 month period during the construction of the new Leggoreta-designed museum...The 9th Annual Hispanic Wellness Fair takes place Saturday August 4 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Will Rogers’ Amon Carter Exhibits Hall. The fair reaches out to the Hispanic community, and is open to everyone in need of health care services, including dental, eye, blood pressure, cholesterol, diabetes and body mass testing, mammograms and cervical cancer screenings, information on HIV/AIDS, as well as social services. Back-to-school immunizations will be provided at no cost. Nearly 100 local groups will be on hand to provide information on diabetes and body mass testing, mammograms and cervical cancer screenings, information on HIV/AIDS, as well as social services. Back-to-school immunizations will be provided at no cost. Nearly 100 local groups will be on hand to provide information on diabetes and body mass testing, mammograms and cervical cancer screenings, information on HIV/AIDS, as well as social services. Back-to-school immunizations will be provided at no cost. Nearly 100 local groups will be on hand to provide information on diabetes and body mass testing, mammograms and cervical cancer screenings, information on HIV/AIDS, as well as social services. Back-to-school immunizations will be provided at no cost.

**CRIME ON THE RISE**

June was a very busy month for the Fort Worth Police Department. Crime spiked throughout the city, and Arlington Heights was no exception. For many days running in May, our sector’s police reports included three or four incidences of car windows being broken in broad daylight with items stolen out of cars that were parked in area restaurant parking lots. Police caught up with three separate car burglary rings, but it continues to be a problem in Arlington Heights. “People still leave things in their cars in plain sight,” says Jan Bourne, Captain of Arlington Heights’ Citizens on Patrol. “Thieves walk around parking lots like they’re shopping, looking to steal things out of cars. It takes them a couple of seconds to break the window which makes no sound and they grab and run.” Also on the increase is car theft, as well as copper theft, especially air conditioning units from businesses and construction sites. Even more alarming are the three murders in a single week in Como. Police are investigating if they are drug-related.

Robberies are also up throughout Fort Worth. Unfortunately, Arlington Heights has also experienced some aggravated robberies. One incident involved a man returning to his car in Uncle Julio’s parking lot where he was robbed with a baseball bat. One woman was robbed at gunpoint at the Boulevard. “This is not meant to alarm you, but we want you to be alert and to be aware,” says Bourne. “The Citizens on Patrol are increasing their patrols and trying to be more visible at different times of day and night. And our Neighborhood Patrol Officer David Miller and the police department are doing special detail, including undercover work, to help curb the current crime increase.”

If you see anything suspicious, please call 911 or Officer Miller on his cell phone at 817/996-5506.

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COUNCILMAN BURDETTE  JULY SPEAKER

We are pleased to have City Councilman Carter Burdette as our guest speaker at the Monday July 16 AHNA meeting. In May, Councilman Burdette was re-elected for another two-year term as our representative on the Fort Worth City Council. During his first two years in the District 7 seat, he proved to be a diligent and fair-minded councilman who is sensitive to the issues of our neighborhood. He serves on a number of boards and committees for the city, including the Executive Board of the powerful North Central Texas Council of Governments.

Following his remarks, he will take questions from our membership. Councilman Burdette has been an oil and gas attorney for 50 years, so he will be able to share his insights about how our neighborhood could approach the Barnett Shale gas lease situation. However, he'll be limited in the free legal advice he can offer due to liability issues.

Renee's Law Office

GAS DRILLING

ROUND TABLE AT AUGUST MEETING

Barnett Shale is the big buzzword in Arlington Heights. We all want to do the right thing, but most of us don't know what to do. Before you sign anything, come to the Monday August 20 AHNA meeting and listen to what our panel of experts say and ask them all the questions you can think of. We're tapping into the wealth of intelligence in our neighborhood by inviting AHNA member Sergio Yanes who is a registered engineer at DFW Airport who manages rail access planning, commercial development planning and the natural gas planning supporting Chesapeake's natural gas exploration at the airport. Also confirmed is Howard Hudler who owns property in our neighborhood has been in the oil and gas business for 30 years and is presently with Quicksilver Resources. More panelists will be confirmed in the next few weeks. The August 20 meeting is open to everyone, not just AHNA members, so invite your friends and neighbors.

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The boundaries of Arlington Heights Neighborhood Association are the triangle of Camp Bowie Boulevard on the north, Montgomery Street on the east, and Interstate Highway 30 on the south and the west.

AHNA Measuring Schedule
Monday July 16, 2007
Monday August 20, 2007
Monday September 17, 2007
6:30pm-7:30pm
Every 3rd Monday
Arlington Heights United Methodist Church
4200 Camp Bowie Blvd. (enter on Hillcrest)
Letter from the President

by Christina Patoski

Recently many property owners in Arlington Heights received letters from Dale Property Services to lease mineral rights for future development of the Barnett Shale. Some of you had already received similar letters from Four Sevens Resources. If my e-mail and telephone lines are any indication, there is panic among us about what to do. I’m encouraging our neighbors to take their time before signing anything. The City of Fort Worth advises us “don’t sign anything that you don’t understand.” You won’t miss out on this opportunity by not signing immediately, there’s no need to rush. It will pay off in the long run for you to take your time to study the issues and learn about gas leases.

AHNA is continuing to provide pertinent information and articles to its members through e-mail and this newsletter. Be sure to read the Problem Solver story on Page 6. Share this with your neighbors who aren’t e-mailers, especially our senior citizens who are less likely to have e-mail. If you’d like to be added to our information pipeline, please send me your e-mail.

On June 20, more than 150 neighbors attended an informational meeting sponsored by AHNA in conjunction with Creaseline Neighborhood Association and West Byers Neighborhood Association. We invited Four Sevens Resources to speak at the meeting, because at that time they were the only company who had contacted Arlington Heights property owners. Since then, Dale has joined the race. All three neighborhood associations have agreed to collectively hire an oil and gas attorney to look at the standard lease form and advise us on what to delete, add, and change. Each individual property owner will still negotiate their own lease; the attorney will not do this. We estimate the attorney’s fee to be about $1,000. Our neighborhood was asked to provide $400 towards this. So far, we’ve received $185 in small donations from effected property owners, with several more verbal commitments.

With fifty years as a practicing oil and gas attorney, City Councilman Carter Burdette has the expertise and experience to enlighten us on mineral matters. He is our guest speaker at the Monday July 16 AHNA meeting. We hope all of you will attend. Your friends and neighbors are welcome to attend. See page 3 for more information.

Some of you have asked whether AHNA will negotiate as a single group as some other neighborhoods have. We’re trying to figure out if it’s feasible to effectively organize the 2,500 households within our association’s boundaries since some people have already signed. So, sit tight and stay tuned. If you’re interested in serving on the AHNA Gas Drilling Committee, please let me know.

Councilman Carter Burdette who raced cars in the 1970s is shown here in his open wheel Formula-style car with his five children in front of what is now the Fort Worth Community Art Center. (Photo by Lee Angle Photography, courtesy of Councilman Carter Burdette)
There's nothing easy about being a City Council representative, but no one who runs for the office thinks it's going to be a walk in the park. It's certainly not the $25,000 annual compensation that's the motivation. A quick calculation of the hours of meetings, hearings, retreats, and reading that are required shows that it doesn't even come out to minimum wage. But, that's not why Carter Burdette considered becoming a member of the Fort Worth City Council in the first place.

A graduate of Harvard Law School, Burdette grew up in Pampa, Texas. He wanted to be an engineer, but Amherst College, where he attended undergraduate school, was a liberal arts college, “and the closest degree that I could get to engineering was physics,” explains Burdette. “By the time I got to my senior year I couldn’t understand physics anymore, so I decided to go to law school.”

In his second year of law school he married his wife, Ellie, to whom he is still married. The young couple knew that after law school they wanted to come back to Texas. In 1958, the Burdette’s moved to Fort Worth where Carter began a fifty-year career as an oil and gas attorney, first with Champlin Oil & Refining Company, and then in 1962 with Corey Hanger Law Firm. An early career highlight was a six-week trip in 1966 to Mogadishu, Somalia where he helped to negotiate an oil concession from the Somalian government for Perry Bass.

In 2005, as his legal career was winding down, Burdette was approached by City Council member John Stevenson to throw his hat in the ring for the District 7 City Council seat from which Stevenson was retiring. A political tenderfoot, Burdette was no stranger to leadership, having served on a number of civic and charitable boards and committees, including as the Chair for Streams and Valleys and a trustee for Trinity Valley School. He is still active on the board of the Fort Worth Exchange Club and recently retired as a board member of the Speedway Children’s Charities Board.

Running for City Council might not have been his life’s ambition, but it has suited him well and he has become a valuable asset to the Fort Worth City Council, not just in oil and gas matters. “He brings not only intelligence, but wisdom to the council table,” says City Councilperson Wendy Davis who has served on the Fort Worth City Council for nine years.

A political conservative, Burdette openly admits he’s not a politician and “I don’t think I’ll ever learn to be one.” Then, what would motivate this successful attorney who was ready to retire to take on a new career? “I’ve got the background and experience to be of service to the Council,” he says. “And I find it intriguing and very interesting.” Interesting enough to successfully run for second two-year term.

Every Thursday night, a city marshall delivers a ring-bound notebook to Burdette’s door, thick with the business for the next week’s Tuesday City Council meeting. Some weeks there is so much to be covered that “I can hardly carry the notebook around.” But, Burdette is a thorough and conscientious man who “reads every single page,” attests wife Ellie. And, he spends a lot of time going to meetings.

Besides the weekly City Council meetings, he attends meetings for fifteen boards and committees he serves on for the city, including the Central City Revitalization and Economic Development Committee, the Infrastructure and Transportation Committee, the...