



# ARLINGTON HEIGHTS

MARCH - APRIL 2008

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS & VIEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE ARLINGTON HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION • WWW.ARLINGTONHEIGHTSNA.COM

## ARLINGTON HEIGHTS WINS 2007 NEIGHBORHOOD OF THE YEAR AWARD

Arlington Heights Neighborhood Association took home the top honor as Fort Worth's "2007 Neighborhood of the Year" at the Annual Neighborhood Workshops and Awards Luncheon sponsored by the City of Fort Worth and the Fort Worth League of Neighborhood Associations on Saturday February 9. Mayor Mike Moncrief delivered the keynote address.

This is the first time for AHNA to receive the city's most prestigious neighborhood award which includes a \$200 cash prize and a plaque. Cited for having the best combined social, physical and collaborative revitalization efforts, AHNA was recognized for its comprehensive programs, including re-zoning 600 single-family homes from Two-Family/Duplex zoning to Single Family zoning, the 9th annual Thanksgiving potluck dinner, publication of the 2007 Directory of Neighborhood Businesses, establishing the first historic district in Arlington Heights, the New Neighbor Welcome Bag program, gas drilling education events, the street topper program, along with a number of other activities.

Other winners included Fairmount Neighborhood Association which received the Fort Worth Pride Award for its physical revitalization efforts. Lake Worth Alliance received the Community Collaboration Award for its efforts to clean up Lake Worth. Hulén Heights Homeowners Association took the Spirit of Fort Worth Award for its social revitalization efforts in the spirit of neighborliness. David Thrapp of Fairmount Neighborhood Association was given the Ben Ann Tomayko Good Neighbor Award for going above and beyond in his years of service to neighborhoods.

Preceding the luncheon, educational workshops designed to give neighborhoods the tools they need to maintain successful organizations were presented by staff members from the City of Fort



**AHNA members accepted the top award at the 2007 Neighborhood Workshops and Awards Luncheon hosted by the City of Fort Worth and the Fort Worth League of Neighborhoods. From left to right: Makenzie Carpenter (Zoning Committee), John Bailey (Citizens on Patrol), Lee Gilmer (New Neighbor Welcome Chair), Dave Marshall (Zoning Chair), Christina Patoski (President), Mike Beaupre (Traffic Chair), Beth Kaufmann (Gas Lease Chair), Juliet George (Historic Preservation Chair), Neighborhood Patrol Officer David Miller, Dorothy Bailey (Citizens on Patrol & New Neighbor Welcome Committee).** (Photo credit: James Rodriguez)

Worth. The annual event is co-sponsored by the Fort Worth League of Neighborhoods, an independent, voluntary umbrella organization of Fort Worth neighborhood groups. Based on the belief that neighborhoods should be involved in the civic decision making process, the League was formed in 1985 to create a strong voice at City Hall for neighborhoods throughout the city. There are 255 neighborhood associations currently registered with the City of Fort Worth.

The Neighborhood of the Year award comes as the result of many years of work by many, many volunteers. Through their efforts, both big and small, and through the guidance and thoughtful decisions made by each year's AHNA Executive Committee, our neighborhood has come of age and is now officially recognized as having an outstanding neighborhood organization.

Arlington Heights Neighborhood Association is one of the oldest registered neighborhood associations in the city. It was established in the 1970s by a group of neighbors, including James Toal, a founding principal and co-chairman of Gideon Toal, a local urban design and planning powerhouse. Since then, AHNA dissolved and re-organized several times.

The current organization was re-established by a small group of neighbors in September 1999. Monthly meetings were initially held in the library of South Hi-Mount Elementary School, but soon moved to Arlington Heights United Methodist Church where they are still held every third Monday evening of the month. Crime reports from the Neighborhood Patrol Officer and educational guest speakers are long-

(continued on Page 7)



# Letter from the President

by Christina Patoski

I was thrilled to accept the 2007 Neighborhood of the Year award on behalf of Arlington Heights Neighborhood Association. Our award has been many years in the making and is the culmination of many talented people donating their time for the common goal of making our neighborhood a great one. It is gratifying to be recognized for all of these efforts. To the hundreds of volunteers who have rolled up their sleeves and helped AHNA during the last nine years, this is your award. Many thanks and sincere gratitude to all of you.

Earlier this month, I attended my first local political caucus. It was obvious that I wasn't the only political virgin at the event. Few of the 100+ voters who crushed into South Hi Mount Elementary School's small auditorium knew what they were supposed to do. They, too, had just discovered that you can vote in Texas for a second time in a primary election by showing up at the polls at 7:15 pm on election night.

Now, the nation knows all about the Texas caucuses, too. Overall voter turnout set a state record at an estimated 4.2 million voters going to the Texas polls. As we go to press, officials are still grappling with caucus counts, a result of insufficient planning for the unprecedented number of voters who decided to participate this year. One veteran neighbor who has served as a state convention delegate explained to me that usually only a couple of people show up at the caucus and the party is usually forced to make phone calls to get enough delegates to go to the county convention.

It was different this year. The energy in the room was palpable. Even though there was a lot of time spent waiting, it gave everyone the opportunity to catch up with old friends and make new ones. It was democracy in action and I was in the middle of it and a part of it. I felt a connection to all these people, many of whom I didn't know. So many people wanted to be delegates that we had to draw for spots and there were more than enough volunteers for alternate delegates. A very rare experience, very reassuring, very hopeful.

Be sure to get registered to vote in time to vote in the general election in November as well as the important May 10 local bond election. It is so easy you can do it online by going to [www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/voter/index.shtml](http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/voter/index.shtml).

**Police non-emergency number:  
817.335.4222**

**Neighborhood Patrol Officer David Miller:  
817.996.5506 (cell)  
d.miller@fortworthgov.org**

**Code Compliance Officer Eliseo Pena:  
817.740.2030, 817.269-8690 (cell)  
eliseo.pena@fortworthgov.org**

**City Councilman Carter Burdette:  
817.392.8807  
carter.burdette@fortworthgov.org**

## NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Do you have some news you would like to see listed in our newsletter? Please submit it to: PO Box 470692, Fort Worth 76147 or [christinapatoski@earthlink.net](mailto:christinapatoski@earthlink.net). Please include your name, address, phone, and e-mail address. Deadline for submissions is the 1st of each month. The editors have the right to refuse any submission they deem inappropriate to the newsletter. We may also edit for content and length. Views and opinions expressed in the newsletter are not necessarily those of AHNA or of its members.

## ADVERTISING RATES

Current circulation is 400 households bi-monthly.  
Business card: \$25, 1/4 page: \$50,  
1/2 page: \$100, Full page: \$200  
Call 817/738-0330

## AHNA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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## AHNA COMMITTEES

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### Gas Leases

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### Historic Preservation

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817.732.4675

### New Neighbor Welcome Bags

Lee Gilmer  
817.738.0937

Please address all correspondence to:  
PO Box 470692  
Fort Worth, Texas 76147

# NATIVE PLANT GARDENING IN MARCH

When Master Gardener Sharon Chastain first saw the Outdoor Learning Environment at Alice Carlson Applied Learning Center it was overgrown with weeds and brush. The gardens were planted with major funding from the Rainwater Foundation in 1997 in what was a cracked and weedy tennis court behind the school near the campus of Texas Christian University. Students were involved in every phase of planning and helped landscape architect Tom Galbraith in designing representations of Texas prairies, wetlands, woodlands, desert plains and arroyos.

By 2003, maintenance of the model project had fallen into neglect. Chastain, along with a group of other master gardeners-in-the-making, rebuilt the gardens, adding bridges, an arroyo, a raised nursery bed, a compost area and a fenced equipment corral. They labeled all the plants which include drought tolerant plants, such as yuccas and cacti, with their common and botanical names so that students and visitors could learn more about them. The school's rainwater catchment system was updated and the path through the popular Butterfly Garden was rebuilt to correct an ongoing drainage problem.

Sharon is dedicated to helping people understand and preserve the natural world. Her passion for native plants and creating wildlife habitats will be evident in her power point presentation to the AHNA membership meeting on Monday March 17 at 6:30pm

# DEVELOPERS OF 7TH STREET/UNIVERSITY SHOW PLANS IN APRIL

Redevelopment of 7th Street between downtown and the Cultural District is in full swing. Five blocks have been scraped for a mixed-use project that will include a 150-room hotel with condominiums and several new parking structures. We've invited some of the people behind the renaissance to show us what's coming up. Architect Michael Bennett, principal with Gideon Tool which developed the master plan for the area, is a specialist in urban development and planning. Brett Witzig is Senior Project Manager for Cypress Equities, an affiliate of the Staubach Company. Cypress is one of the nation's fast growing real estate development companies and is booking tenants for the 7th Street project that they describe as a "Lifestyle Center". Joining them is Project Architect Scott Sower with Good, Fulton & Farrell Architects, an award-winning Dallas-based design firm.

*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.*

## & Become a member receive your newsletter six times a year!

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What are your concerns/interests? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to join a committee? \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail annual dues (\$15 for household, \$25 for business):  
AHNA, PO Box 470692, Fort Worth, TX 76147-0692  
MARCH/APRIL 2008 Membership Form



### AHNA Meeting Schedule

Monday March 17, 2008  
Monday April 21, 2008  
Monday May 19, 2008

6:30pm-7:30pm  
Every 3rd Monday

**Arlington Heights United Methodist Church**  
4200 Camp Bowie Blvd. (enter on Hillcrest)

### AHNA FINANCIAL REPORT

BALANCE AS OF 1/01/08	\$10,819.38
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	
Advertising	\$150.00
Business memberships	\$25.00
Individual memberships	\$695.00
League of Neighborhoods Award	\$200.00
<hr/>	
TOTAL ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	\$1,070.00
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	
Bank charge	\$14.80
Office	\$130.90
Postage	\$128.50
Newsletter	\$299.04
Web	\$255.77
Insurance	\$597.00
Oil/Gas Expenses	\$135.30
Western Blvd. Trees	\$482.50
Meeting Expenses	\$55.00
Zoning Cases	\$43.91
Miscellaneous	\$180.50
TOTAL ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	\$2,323.22
<hr/>	
BALANCE AS OF 2/29/08	\$9,566.16

# FYI: NEIGHBORHOOD BRIEFS

In an effort to combat speeding through our neighborhood the city's Traffic Department has approved **new four-way stops** at Tulsa Way and Watonga, Ashland and Bryce, Pershing and Thomas Place, and Hillcrest and Bryce. **Speed humps** have been approved for Crestline (Clover to Montgomery), Calmont (Clover to Merrick), Pershing (Clover to Merrick), El Campo (Clover to Merrick), and Clover Lane (Camp Bowie to I-30). In order to move this forward, the nearby neighbors must show their approval by turning in approval ballots by Sunday March 16th. If you didn't get a ballot, lost it, or have questions, call Mike Beaupre at 817/680-8587. We hoped to inaugurate AHNA's **Yard of the Month** award in this newsletter, but because of the freak March snow storm and blast of cold weather the front yard landscapes haven't begun to peak to award worthiness. So, we'll be announcing the first winner in April. If you'd like to nominate a yard, please contact Meda Kessler at 817/688-2545. Welcome our **new neighborhood Code Compliance Officer** Eliseo Pena. He can be reached at 817/740-2030 or on his cell at 817/269-8690, or by e-mail at eliseo.pena@fortworthgov.org. For those of you who are upset about the loss of the Police sub-station at Merrick and Camp Bowie, we received an explanation about the department-wide overhaul from Brandon Scott Bennett, Assistant Director of Fort Worth Code. As of January 5, 2008, the Police Department implemented new police beat assignments in order to align them with the Code Compliance beats and police districts. Most officers, including our own Neighborhood Patrol Officer David Miller, will keep their same assignments. The goal is to keep **Neighborhood Patrol and Code Compliance Officers** in the same area for at least two years, but because retirements, promotions, and resignations this is not always possible. Contact Brandon at 817/392-6322 if you would like to discuss the changes. It's **Cowtown Cleanup** time again on Saturday March 29 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For the 23rd year, neighborhood associations, civic groups, scout troops, businesses and anyone interested in making Fort Worth more beautiful will volunteer to pick up litter and debris from area parks, neighborhoods and right-of-ways across the city. Pick a site to clean up and register your group online by March 14 at [www.fortworthgov.org/dem](http://www.fortworthgov.org/dem) or call 817-392-

8596. The city provides free trash bags, t-shirts and gloves while supplies last to all registered groups. Each person must sign a waiver of liability in order to receive supplies. After the cleanup, take the bagged trash to one of seven drop-off sites, then head to Trinity Park for a post-cleanup party featuring live music, Radio Disney and snacks. The City of Fort Worth is considering making **changes to parking surface requirements**, among them allowing dust-free gravel base pervious surfaces for passenger vehicle parking, in accordance with the City's storm water policy. In an attempt to discourage parking off of driveways in one- and two-family districts, like Arlington Heights, the city is considering restricting the amount of pavement allowed in front yards and requiring screening fences for vehicles parked off of driveways in side and rear yards. Contact Jocelyn Murphy, Planning Manager, at 817-392-6226, or [jocelyn.murphy@fortworthgov.org](mailto:jocelyn.murphy@fortworthgov.org) for more information. Fort Worth Public Health Department has launched a new easy access internet tool at [fortworthgov.org](http://fortworthgov.org) that allows citizens to check the health inspection scores for Fort Worth restaurants, delis, cafe, bakeries, grocery stores, bars, daycare centers and pools. Citizens can also file a health violation complaint at the site. Results of the initial environmental analyses for the **40-mile Southwest-to-Northeast Rail Corridor** will be presented by the Fort Worth Transportation Authority on Tuesday, March 18th at 6:30pm at 2501 SW Loop 820 at McCart and on Wednesday, March 19th at noon at the Intermodal Transportation Center, 1001 Jones St. Public input is encouraged. The Southwest-to-Northeast Rail Corridor environmental team has been working over the past several months to identify the potential impacts of the proposed commuter rail project and to propose measures to avoid, minimize or mitigate any potential impacts. For more information or to make a comment about the Southwest-to-Northeast Rail Corridor project, call the project hotline at 817-215-8785, or email at [info@sw2neRAIL.com](mailto:info@sw2neRAIL.com). Register now for the **11th annual Zoo Run Run** on Saturday April 19. This year's run will benefit the 25 frog species at the Zoo. The Run includes competitive Timed 10K, Timed 5K, and 1-mile Fun Run. The Zoo's course is USATF certified, and both competitive races will be managed by ChampionChip timing. Zoo Run Run will take place along the Zoo's main pathway and throughout the beautiful

## John R. Morris Attorney at Law



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neighborhoods surrounding the Zoo. Early entry fees are \$20 per individual or \$18 per person for team entries. School group entry fees are \$16 per person. The final deadline for all school groups and team entries is April 4, 2008. After April 4, 2008, entry fees are \$25 per individual and \$30 per individual on race day. Pick up registration forms at the Fort Worth Zoo Guest Relations office or Luke's Locker. Register online at [www.fortworth-zoo.org](http://www.fortworth-zoo.org) or at [www.active.com](http://www.active.com). For more information on Zoo Run Run, please call 817/759-7337...A public hearing is set for the pending Oversized Vehicle Ordinance on Thursday March 20 at Travis Avenue Baptist Church, 800 W. Berry St. at 6:30 p.m. For details on the ordinance call 817/392-2394 or go to [fortworthgo.org/codecompliance](http://fortworthgo.org/codecompliance).

## GAS LEASE UPDATE

by Beth Kaufmann  
Gas Lease Committee Chair

Big news on the gas lease front! AHNA is joining forces with several other West Side neighborhoods to solicit bids from selected major drilling players in the Barnett Shale. Collectively, this alliance represents 3,300+ acres. We expect "strength in numbers" to put each neighborhood in a much stronger bargaining position.

Requests for bids should be in the hands of the gas exploration companies within the next two weeks, with a response expected by mid-May. We will then recommend to the neighborhood what we think are the best terms from the bids received. Terms include maximizing our economic compensation while minimizing the impact of urban gas drilling on our quality of life. Watch this space! Details to follow as they become available.

If you are not already on our gas lease drilling e-mail notification list, please sign up by sending an e-mail to [christinapatoski@earthlink.net](mailto:christinapatoski@earthlink.net). That is the best way to stay informed. We will keep you abreast of developments via

e-mail and once final leases are approved, we will let you know the arrangements for signing up. AHNA WILL LET YOU KNOW WHEN THE NEIGHBORHOOD LEASE IS READY TO SIGN. In the meantime, please beware of unscrupulous tactics by energy operators. We've heard of instances in other Tarrant County neighborhoods where a neighborhood recommended a lease and energy companies went door-to-door claiming they had the lease that the neighborhood association negotiated even though that was not the case. Another energy company was simply running an end around. We will do our best to keep you informed as the process moves forward. When in doubt, don't sign.

Please keep in mind that, as always, you are free to sign your own lease, hire an attorney and negotiate your own terms, opt out of leasing altogether, or wait for the neighborhood lease. We feel it is in everyone's best interests to wait for the neighborhood lease.

*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.*



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# OPPORTUNITIES AWAIT

by Kelly Jo Nial

Window shopping at University Park Village isn't the only place to find great merchandise. Surprisingly, the streets of Arlington Heights have become quite the hot spot for those seeking an unbeatable bargain. And, I'm not talking about consignment store shopping; rather it's about theft and burglary. Where are these thieves shopping? Your vehicle, especially those parked along the street. Parked cars create prime opportunities for criminal activity.

Case in point, I conducted my own personal non-scientific study while walking my dog around the neighborhood, and found that at least 50 percent of vehicles parked along the street contained 'opportunities' for theft including readily visible cell phones, purses, briefcases, tool boxes, laptops, clothing, satellite radios, mp3 players, loose change, digital cameras, jewelry, and bags full of who knows what.

It takes less than a minute to bust out a window and swipe the goods. No one heeds the car alarms anymore—we're annoyed, not concerned at that dang noise. We think to ourselves, "There's another person who can't unlock their car without setting off the alarm."

Moreover, we spend so much time shopping, whether it's trying to decide how many megapixels to get for our new camera, to get Windows Vista or stick with Windows XP, or even whether to purchase a button-up or zipper-front leather jacket. But, the time it takes for someone to bust the window and swipe it, was oh, less than a minute. Smash and Grab, you've heard it before. With the weather warming up, it's not unusual to spot a car with its windows down, displaying untold 'opportunities' just laying there. Makes you wonder if it is a sting operation where thieves are being intentionally tempted to steal, because WHY would anyone do that?

It can seem mundane and petty to hear of yet another car that was broken into where the digital camera that was laying in the passenger seat was stolen. Perhaps you even thought 'well, that's what happens when you leave it in the car.' Let's be honest, we have all left something in the car we shouldn't have. You know it. We all have to economize our time. Why bother taking the camera in when you are going to that party in less than an hour to take pictures.

Uh huh. Well, now that camera is gone, and so are your only pictures from your trip to Europe that you meant to upload on to your computer yesterday. Adding insult to injury, you have to deal with a broken car window and probably your insurance company. AND you are going to miss the party. NEVER AGAIN will you leave anything in your car, right?

Vehicles are not the only source of criminal opportunity. Other targets include poorly-illuminated properties, newspapers piling up, shrubs grown up around the windows, open garage doors, an empty box sitting out front that formerly housed a shiny, new 52" plasma TV, and a personal favorite: folks who wash their cars in the driveway and have to run in for a towel leaving their keys in the car? Let's just see if you locked your door while you are out there. Great opportunities await.

What you need to do is think like a burglar. Take a walk around the perimeter of your home from the street and the alley and look for 'opportunities'. Crime is normal and it will happen, just don't let it happen to you. Use common sense. Take valuables out of your car and park in the driveway, if possible. Use motion sensor lights on the exterior of your house. Have a trusted neighbor pick up your mail and newspapers while you are away. Lock your doors ALL THE TIME. Shut and lock the windows. Put interior lights on timers. If you have an alarm, set it every time you leave. Never share any personal information with strangers. Cover up all valuables not for sale when you have a garage sale. Break down boxes that contain high dollar electronics and dispose of any items discreetly. Last but not least, you protect your social security number, right? Now protect your health insurance card the same way. That's a whole other story, but you really don't want someone other than yourself using it for gall bladder surgery, do you? You will never get that one off your medical record. Trust me. TAKE AWAY THE OPPORTUNITIES.

Need help or advice doing this? Call our Neighborhood Police Officer David Miller at 817-996-5506. Deter theft of your high dollar items by having them laser security marked. *Etch-a-Tech* specializes in marking almost any item including laptops, iPods, cameras, and much more. For more information, call Dave Marshall at 817-738-6815.

*Makenzie Carpenter provided assistance on this article*



**Arlington Heights  
United Methodist Church**  
4200 Camp Bowie Blvd.  
Ft. Worth, TX 76107  
817-737-3161

Dear friends in the Arlington Heights Community,

As many of you know, we have had a major problem with cars speeding past our church on Hillcrest and endangering many of those who enter our facilities, especially children and older adults. We had hoped to close the street, but when it became apparent that we would not be able to do that, we met with the two local neighborhood associations, as well as city personnel and politicians to try to negotiate a way that would address everyone's needs. This past week the city installed two designated walkways and several pedestrian warning signs to assist in safe passage across the street.

We want to thank the leaders and members of Arlington Heights Neighborhood Association for their willingness to meet with us and help arrive at an option for crossing the street more safely.

We are delighted to have your association meet in our church facility and look forward to enjoying a future shared with our wonderful neighbors.

Grace and Peace,  
  
Jerry Chism, Senior Minister

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AHNA's mandate is to provide support and advocacy to the Arlington Heights community at large. Serving as a resource and clearinghouse of information, AHNA helps neighbors navigate their way through neighborhood problems, such as speeding traffic, flooding, crumbling sidewalks, and incompatible new development. AHNA also helps to resolve neighbor-to-neighbor problems like overgrown alleys, trespassing cats and felled trees.

Since 2000, the association has published a bi-monthly newsletter that is mailed to AHNA members. As a community outreach effort, once a year the newsletter is hand delivered by neighborhood volunteers to all the 2,500 households within the association's boundaries, whether they are members or not.

Every August AHNA supports Neighborhood Patrol Officer David Miller and the AHNA Citizens on Patrol in their National Night Out celebration which has turned into a major community event with ten Camp Bowie restaurants contributing food, a deejay, an inflatable jumping platform for the kids, and the Fort Worth Firefighters with their fire truck.

One of the highlights on the AHNA calendar is the annual Thanksgiving potluck dinner that is open to all neighbors and adjacent neighborhood associations, not just AHNA members. In 2007, Margo Dean, legendary Fort Worth ballerina and teacher for fifty years, spoke about her career and presented a short performance, featuring members of her ballet company. Mayor Mike Moncrief was the guest speaker in 2006.

The New Neighbor Welcome Bag program is another on-going AHNA project. Using a real estate database, more than 100 bags were delivered by volunteers to new neighbors in 2007. The bags are assembled by AHNA volunteers who fill them with free items donated from neighborhood businesses.

AHNA's Zoning Committee convenes monthly to consider upcoming zoning cases in the AHNA boundaries and to provide advice and advocacy to the residential neighbors who are dealing with zoning changes in their immediate area. When necessary, members of the Zoning Committee make presentations to the Zoning Commission, Board of Adjustment and City Council on behalf of residential neighbors.

Speeding is a common complaint throughout our neighborhood. To address that and other related problems, the AHNA Traffic Committee has spent several years developing a Neighborhood Traffic Plan which is in the process of being adopted through the petition process required by the City of Fort Worth.

Using membership dues, AHNA has purchased and installed more than 50 neighborhood association street toppers throughout the neighborhood over the last several years.

Thomas Place Community Center is a pet AHNA project of AHNA. Built in 1924, the historic brick structure was designed as a school and is the second oldest standing school in Arlington Heights. It now serves as a community center with classes for adults and children and includes an outdoor playground. In 2006, AHNA member Meda Kessler filled the empty plant beds surrounding the building with native plants. In 2007, members of Christ Chapel Bible Church re-installed the plant borders and dug holes and installed eleven trees donated by AHNA members. Thomas Place Community Center is often at the top of the list of community centers that the City of Fort Worth is considering to close, so AHNA works hard to do what it can to keep the center open and full of activity.

As a member of the West Side Alliance, AHNA works with five other West Side neighborhood associations (Crestwood, Crestline, North Hi Mount, Monticello and West Byers) on zoning, growth and quality of life issues. AHNA also co-sponsors with other nearby neighborhood associations community information events on urban gas leases and is coordinating a neighborhood gas lease.

Since 2003, AHNA has worked in conjunction with Crestline Area Neighborhood Association (CANA) to commission a master plan for Camp Bowie Blvd. between Montgomery St. and I-30. Recognizing the importance of Camp Bowie as an historic commercial corridor, the two neighborhoods that border it formed the Camp Bowie Council to encourage its vitality and to insure that its future will move in a positive direction.

In 2007, members of AHNA were invited by Councilman Carter Burdette to serve on the Ad Hoc Montgomery St. Committee which was charged to make recommendations for the future development of Montgomery St., an important gateway to the Cultural District on the eastern border of AHNA.

A city without neighborhoods would be just a bunch of buildings. Maintaining neighborhoods requires constant vigilance on the part of the people that live in them. And it takes a lot of work. As you can see AHNA is involved in many aspects of the neighborhood. There are always opportunities for volunteers. So, if you have the desire to pitch in, even if it's for a single afternoon, please let us know and we'll find something for you to do.

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