

MAY - JUNE 2008

# ARLINGTON HEIGHTS

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS & VIEWS

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

## FLASH FLOODING STILL A PROBLEM FOR CENTRAL ARLINGTON HEIGHTS

by Christina Patoski

When heavy rains hit the West Side, television news crews head straight to Hulen Street and Bryce Avenue where they know they can almost always find good visuals. And sure as clockwork, video of a floating car or two heading towards Western Avenue ends up on the 10 o'clock news.

Those of us who live here know this first hand, especially the folks who live on Western and Carleton Avenue near Bryce, some of whom have experienced devastating property damage from torrential rain, some of them multiple times. Their flash flood stories could fill volumes of books.

Kim and Jon Vidaurri moved into their Carleton Avenue home twelve years ago. They've been flooded out four times, resulting in thousands of dollars of damage. "We kept complaining about the problem to the city and got nowhere," says Kim. "This is a life safety issue for my family," explains Jon. To add insult to injury, Jon laments, "Now, some real estate brokers don't recommend buying houses on Carleton or Western because 'those streets flood'." Luckily, the Vidaurris were able to purchase affordable flood insurance through FEMA at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov).

Finally, on June 28, 2004 the Vidaurri's neighbor Sean Sullivan captured on videotape the biggest flash flood in recent memory on Carleton and Western when several inches of rain fell in less than two hours. The videotape began circulating, ending up in the hands of neighbor Bobbie Shosty whose home sustained some of the heaviest damage.

Shosty, a spunky young woman, marched down to the next City Council meeting to show the tape during council proceedings. Finally, here was undeniable evidence of the problem and it was



**June 28, 2004 was the biggest flash flood event in recent Arlington Heights history. This photo taken that day on Western Avenue illustrates what several inches of rainfall in less than two hours can do to our neighborhood.**

(Photo credit: Ralph Lauer)

as dramatic as anything Hollywood could stage: a stranded motorist, floating cars, full-blown waterfalls rushing down front yards, and a backyard sandbox loaded with 280 pounds of sand floating down the middle of the street.

It was all the council needed to see. Never mind the property damage, the potential for exposing the public to great physical harm was impossible to ignore. The City Council vowed that it was finally time to fix the flooding problems throughout the city.

"I went back and found city reports about flooding in this area going back to the 1940s," says Steven Eubanks, Senior Storm Drain Engineer with the City of Fort Worth. "But, the reports always ended with 'it's too expensive to fix'."

When Eubanks signed on to the city's Traffic and Public Works Department in 2000, flood mitigation needs within the City of Fort Worth were estimated at \$150 million. Today his count is \$700 million and climbing. "We have a lot of drainage needs in Fort Worth," according to Eubanks.

The City Council convened an ad hoc committee of experts and citizens to study Fort Worth's flood problems. Bobbie Shosty represented Arlington Heights until she moved to higher ground and out of the district. As part of the legal settlement she received from her flood case, she is no longer allowed to talk about it. Jon Vidaurri replaced Shosty on the committee and agreed to serve as AHNA's flood advocate.

(continued on Page 8)



# Letter from the President

by Christina Patoski

A couple of weeks ago I attended a meeting about flooding that the city's Traffic and Public Works Department hosted. It was held at Thomas Place Community Center which was brimming with AHNA activity that night. Our neighborhood Citizens on Patrol were meeting in one room, tucked into the library was the AHNA Traffic Committee who were working on the AHNA Traffic Plan, and in the big room were city engineers and our City Council representative meeting with the folks in our neighborhood who get flooded out after heavy rains. It was wonderful to see the extent to which our community center has truly become a community crossroads. Where just a few years ago the center was at the top of the city's list to close due to low user numbers, today it is at full capacity and functioning as an important resource for our neighbors.

The historic 1922 building is one of the oldest school buildings in Arlington Heights, predating Stripling Middle School, Arlington Heights High School, South Hi-Mount and North Hi-Mount Elementary Schools. It has functioned as a community center for many years. Especially popular is the indoor exercise area that includes a wide array of work out equipment and is available to all Thomas Place members. With annual membership dues at \$15 and \$5 for kids and adults over 60 years of age, this pays for itself in a single visit.

Also available to center members are six computers with internet access and a scanner that now fill the library area. Another bank of computers are set up in the back room for special computer classes for seniors. Hobby groups, such as wood carvers and miniature ceramicists, hold their meetings at the center. Free health workshops for kids and seniors, such as the upcoming "Raising Healthy Kids" by Dr. Aaron Wall on May 22, are offered periodically. Special series of classes, like yoga and Mommy and Me, vary from season to season. Coming this summer are kids acting classes in addition to the very successful kids summer day camp from June through August.

Kids and parents love the new outdoor playground equipment, full basketball court and volleyball set up. Eleven new trees were planted on the grounds last fall, and native plantings now ring the building. A children's teaching garden is in the planning stages.

We've all played a part in turning around Thomas Place Community Center. It belongs to all of us and the more we use it, the more likely it will remain to be here for future generations to enjoy as well.

## AHNA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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**New Neighbor Welcome Bags**  
**Lee Gilmer**  
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Please address all correspondence to:  
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Fort Worth, Texas 76147

**Police non-emergency number:**  
**817.335.4222**

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

**Code Compliance Officer Gina Cabbage:**  
**817.740.2030, 817.709.7439 (cell)**  
**gina.cabbage@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. 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

# BOTANIC GARDENS MASTER PLAN AT MAY MEETING

The Fort Worth Botanic Garden was established in 1912, making it the oldest botanic garden in Texas today. More than 2,500 species of plants are on display on more than 100 acres of land located just to the east of Montgomery St. The highly regarded Japanese Garden is just one of 23 specialty gardens within the Botanic Gardens. The famous Rose Gardens incorporate 2,000 rose plantings.

In anticipation of the garden's 100th anniversary, a master plan is in the process of being designed. Presently, the plan which is still a work in progress proposes moving the gateway entrance on South University Drive to a new location off Montgomery Street near Linden Street and also calls for putting additional parking there.

James Toal of Gideon Toal, the local architecture and design firm which is heading the master plan effort, says the plan also includes restoring the 1934 rose terrace and shelter house and is considering changing the road through the park into a walking path and tramway.

Toal will present the garden's master plan at our Monday May 19 meeting at 6:30pm. Toal is one of the founders of our neighborhood association and served as the President several decades ago.

# FLOOD SOLUTIONS FOR ARLINGTON HEIGHTS AT JUNE MEETING

Anyone who has lived in Arlington Heights for more than a few years already knows about the recurring flooding problems in our neighborhood. Finally, so do the powers that be at the City of Fort Worth. The city recently completed a \$1.5 million study of various solutions and are preparing for a follow-up study which is set to begin mid-summer.

On May 5, engineers from the city's Traffic and Public Works Department made a presentation of their findings to property owners in the central part of Arlington Heights. We thought the presentation was so interesting that we've invited them to come back to share it with the rest of you.

City engineers would like feedback from the neighborhood about the different options they've come up with. Monday June 16 at 6:30pm at Arlington Heights United Methodist Church is the time and place.

*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.*

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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

MAY/JUNE 2008 Membership Form



## AHNA Meeting Schedule

Monday May 19, 2008  
Monday June 16, 2008  
Monday July 21, 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 . . . . . \$725.00  
Business memberships . . . . . \$50.00  
Individual memberships . . . . . 1,215.00  
League of Neighborhoods Award . . . . . \$200.00

TOTAL ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE . . . . . \$2,190.00

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE  
Bank charge . . . . . \$57.70  
Office . . . . . \$144.90  
Postage . . . . . \$128.50  
Newsletter . . . . . \$893.00  
Web . . . . . \$255.77  
Insurance . . . . . \$597.00  
Oil/Gas Expenses . . . . . \$155.17  
Western Blvd. Trees . . . . . \$482.50  
Meeting Expenses . . . . . \$433.98  
Zoning Cases . . . . . \$96.46  
Miscellaneous . . . . . \$180.50  
TOTAL ACCOUNTS PAYABLE . . . . . \$3,475.37


BALANCE AS OF 2/29/08 . . . . . \$9,534.01

# FYI: NEIGHBORHOOD BRIEFS

Time to sign up your kids for **summer day camp** at our neighborhood Thomas Place Community Center, 4237 Lafayette Avenue. Camp 360 is designed for kids ages 5-13 and runs from June 16 through August 22, Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Activities include field trips, swimming, lunch, art, music, drama, science, music, nature and even money management. Cost is \$95 per week. For more information, call the Center at 817/735-1751...Besides summer day camp, Thomas Place Community Center is offering special kids classes this summer for community center members—annual membership fee is just \$15/year. **Dancing Divas** for girls in 3rd through 5th grades will teach “your little diva” hip-hop and jazz dance moves and will teach her how make fashionable accessories for her own music video which will be shown at the end of the 4-week session. It’s \$35 which includes all the materials. In July and August, the center will offer a 6-week program of **kids acting classes**. For more details, call the center at 817/735-1751...Gina Cabbage has been named the **new Code Compliance Officer** for our neighborhood. Gina is a former Fort Worth police officer and is very excited to be working in Arlington Heights. She comes to the job facing a backlog of cases, but is intent on getting caught up very soon. She plans to regularly attend our monthly membership meetings on the third Monday of each month. Reach her by e-mail at gina.cabbage@fortworthgov.org or by calling her cell phone at 817/709-7439...Construction crews have been drilling holes for the support piers of the **new Christ Chapel Bible Church parking garage** at the corner of Calmont and Owasso. The garage will be built on the southern half of the block bounded by Calmont Avenue, Montgomery Street, Birchman Avenue and Owasso and will have the capacity for a total of 175 cars on the ground floor and a single floor above it, according to Rick Neves, Chief Operating Officer of Christ Chapel Bible Church. The project is expected to be completed by the fall. Neves says the church is considering adding another story to the garage, but he could not confirm if it would be done during this go round of building. The parking structure is designed to eventually accommodate a total of three stories of parking...**The Museum of Science and History** is eager to show off their progress and has offered to do a special golf-cart

driven tour to the first twenty neighbors who sign up. E-mail christinapatoski@earthlink.net if you’re interested taking a progress tour...The City of Fort Worth’s Parks and Community Services Department is initiating a **new park improvements grant program** with funds from the city’s gas well revenues. Because royalties from gas recovered on city park lands may only be used for park endeavors, there should be a fair amount of cash to disperse. Applications for the new Neighborhood Park Enhancement Program grant (NPEP) can be made for up to \$25,000. The grant is available to neighborhood associations, community-based groups, private businesses and non-profit organizations interested in updating, enhancing and making additions to neighborhood parks and infrastructure in order to make them more useful to the surrounding community. No matching funds are required, but applicants are encouraged to provide in-kind support. Those interested in applying for the program can learn more about the program by attending a workshop on Saturday May 31 at 9:00 a.m. at Southside Community Center, 959 East Rosedale Street. More information also is available by calling the NPEP Project Manager at 817/871-5764...Our mayor and City Council are inviting you to share with them your ideas about **how to make Fort Worth a better place**, from aging infrastructure to rapid growth and development. “Let’s Talk Fort Worth” kicks off with a series of nine public meetings held throughout the city this summer and culminates with a citywide conversation on Thursday September 25 at 6:30 p.m. Will Rogers Memorial Center Auditorium, 3401 W. Lancaster Avenue. You can leave your ideas and suggestions on the Fort Worth Talk Line at 817/392-2008, or go to www.letstalkfortworth.org. Or plan to attend our area meeting on Thursday July 17 from 6:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Christ Chapel Bible Church, 3740 Birchman Avenue...Dr. Aaron Wall will present a **free workshop on children’s health** on Thursday May 22 at 5:30 p.m. at Thomas Place Community Center. Dr. Wall will identify key steps that parents can take to boost the health of their children and to ensure they live long and healthy lives. A recent medical journal noted that this is the first time in history that parents in America will outlive their children if the nation keeps living the way it has been.

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# GAS UPDATE

Is the neighborhood lease ready yet? How much money are we going to get? Where can I go to sign up? What's taking so long? These are some of the questions you've been asking us. Even though other neighborhoods warned us that it took them a year or longer to negotiate their leases, we didn't believe it would take us that long. Boy, were we wrong! No sooner do we think we're getting close to the end, then some new unforeseen issue pops up that requires time and research, like mortgage subordination, compressor stations, and royalty payment schedules. If you don't deal with these issues in your lease, good luck trying to resolve them after you've signed a lease. Given the magnitude and long-term consequences of negotiating a neighborhood lease, it is in the best interest of our community to err on the side of caution and not rush into an agreement that could ultimately de-value the investment you have in your home's property.

We've sent Request for Proposals (RFP) to nineteen different gas exploration companies and given them a May 16 deadline. After that date, we'll evaluate the responses and make recommendations of how to move forward. We will keep you informed during the process through our e-mail list and this newsletter. If you're not on the e-mail list or would like to add your neighbors to it (they don't have to be members) please send e-mail addresses to christinapatoski@earthlink.net. We do not share or sell our e-mail list.

You are free to sign your own gas lease at any time (be sure you understand what you're signing), hire an attorney to negotiate your own terms, wait for the neighborhood lease, or opt out of leasing altogether.

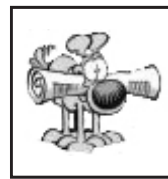
Remember that urban gas drilling to the extent it's being done in Tarrant County is without precedent. There are almost no templates to follow, no other large urban cities to study and benefit from their experiences. It is a fluid situation with new things popping up almost every week. Pipelines are

today's new big wrinkle. We've begun to see gas drilling companies buying up Fort Worth shopping centers and apartment complexes for drill sites.

The City of Fort Worth is looking at amending its current Gas Well Drilling Ordinance. Recently, the City Council appointed a Gas Task Force made up of gas industry representatives, large property owners and related business representatives, and community representatives from each council district to recommend changes. The task force will hold a public hearing about noise issues on Monday June 9 at 6:30 pm in City Council chambers at Fort Worth City Hall, 1000 Throckmorton Street. Call Christine Roberts at 817/392-2592 for more information about the Gas Task Force.

In October 2006, Fort Worth City Council established a moratorium on permits for new saltwater disposal well sites within the city limits. This April the council voted to extend the moratorium through October 31, 2008.

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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## YOU CAN'T CONTROL THE MARKET, BUT YOU CAN CONTROL YOUR DECISIONS.

Sometimes the market reacts poorly to changes in the economy. But just because the market reacts doesn't mean you should. Still, if current events are making you feel uncertain about your finances, you should schedule a complimentary portfolio review. That way, you can help make sure you're in control of where you want to go and how you'll potentially get there.

Call or visit your local financial advisor today.



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# RECENT SPIKE IN CRIME

Arlington Heights has always enjoyed being a neighborhood with one of the lowest crime rates in the city, but that hasn't been the case in the last couple of months. Our Neighborhood Patrol Officer David Miller says there has been alarming increase in car break-ins, a direct result of people continuing to leave things in their cars. One April night there were five cases of burglary of a vehicle within a four-block area of Pershing, Tremont, Ashland and Bryce. No one has been apprehended in any of these cases.

Also, on the increase are break-ins of homes, especially during the day. Common break-in techniques are kicking down the back door or coming through an open window at the back of the house. Officer Miller says he's seen cases of back gate padlocks being cut and wooden fences kicked in.

Even minor thefts are on the increase. One resident on Tremont came home last week to find his two porch rockers gone. Graffiti has begun popping up, especially along Camp Bowie. If you see any graffiti, please report it to 817/212-2700. If it's profanity or gang-related, the city has pledged to remove it within 24-48 hours. Other graffiti will be removed within 72 hours.

As Officer Miller always says, be vigilant and if you see something that doesn't look right, call 911. It's always better to be safe than sorry.

In order to help the police find your valuables if they are stolen, the Fort Worth Police Department recommends using their online serial number registration site to register household items and guns. Go to [www.fortworthpd.com](http://www.fortworthpd.com) and click on Serial # Registration.

Contact Officer Miller at 817/996-5506 or [d.miller@fortworthgov.org](mailto:d.miller@fortworthgov.org) if you would like to receive the daily police reports via e-mail.

# AHNA TRAFFIC PLAN BEGINS TO UNFOLD

Speeding is by far the biggest traffic problem in our neighborhood. After five years of studying, planning, recommending and building consensus, the Arlington Heights Traffic Plan will finally begin to be implemented in our neighborhood. Two of the proposals have been approved and cleared all the hurdles at the city's Traffic and Public Works Department, the final of which is collecting ballots from the neighbors who are most impacted by the specific traffic request.

During this summer, speed cushions will be installed on Clover Lane, between Camp Bowie Boulevard and Interstate 30 (no word on when the street will get repaired), and on Crestline Road, between Camp Bowie and Montgomery Street. Ballots are still being circulated for speed cushions on Linden Avenue, from Montgomery to Clover, and on Calmont Avenue, from Montgomery to Clover. Also, still circulating are four-way stop sign petition requests for the intersections of Hillcrest Street at Bryce Avenue, Tulsa Way at Watonga Street, Pershing Avenue at Thomas Place, and Ashland Avenue at Bryce.

Currently, the predominant speed calming device used by the City of Fort Worth is the speed cushion with indentions to allow fire trucks to drive through them. At the April AHNA membership meeting there was much discussion from the floor about the pros and cons of speed cushions and speed humps. Speed cushions from Clover to Hulen on El Campo Avenue, Pershing, Birchman Avenue and Calmont are still under consideration, but the AHNA Traffic Committee is working with city staff to consider other options for these areas, such as neighborhood traffic circles, chokers and chicanes.

If you're interested in getting involved in traffic issues or would like more information about the process, please contact AHNA Traffic Chair Mike Beaupre at [mikebeaupre@yahoo.com](mailto:mikebeaupre@yahoo.com) or at 817/680-8587.

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Tuesdays in June \$35 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
Girls in 3rd - 5th grade

### Kids Acting Classes

July 7 - August 14 \$45 Grades 1 - 8

### Summer Hours

Monday - 9:30am - 8:30pm  
Tues. & Wed. - 11 am - 7pm  
Thursday - 9:30am - 8:30pm  
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Saturday - Closed  
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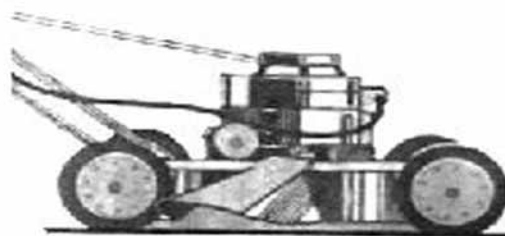
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# MAY 2008 YARD OF THE MONTH

by Meda Kessler

What a pleasurable chore it was to walk the neighborhood sleuthing out the inaugural winner of the AHNA Yard of the Month.

Using suggestions from a multitude of sources, we covered a lot of territory and were wowed by the vast number of green thumbs in our neighborhood. Spring's abundance of rain has been kind (even if the hail and wind haven't) to our lawns, flowers and shrubs.

But we also noticed many more of our neighbors are looking ahead to summer with more water-wise plantings, and we applaud your creativity and sensitivity. We're also happy to see lots of Texas natives and perennials out there, too.

How are we selecting the winners each month? Your garden need not be large or opulent to impress us. We're looking at how the landscaping blends with the home, the mix of plants and other landscaping materials and, of course, visual impact.

Our winner is a great example of how less can be more and also how a monochromatic color scheme can pack a lot of punch while still complementing the tone-on-tone color scheme of the house itself.

Small but perfectly scaled, this north-facing bungalow features a shallow yard with two carefully tended beds that offer harmonious green hues and textures. The blend of oak leaf hydrangea, pittsoporum, ferns and other perennials gets added punch from blood red Japanese maples. An Earth Kind red rose along with some double-ruffle pink petunias add spots of color.

Mickey Duke, a glass artist, and wife Judy, a Montessori teacher, say they've gradually been scaling down in house size and have done all the yard work themselves. Congratulations!

This month's Yard of the Month winner will receive a \$25 gift certificate from Calloway's.

If you would like to nominate a yard for next month, please contact me at medakessler@charter.net.



Mickey and Judy Duke's yard at 4533 Pershing Avenue has been selected as the May 2008 AHNA Yard of the Month. It's a great example of how less can be more for maximum visual impact and complementing the house itself.

(Photo credit: Kelly Jo Nial)

## CAMP FORT WORTH SCRAMBLE

benefiting summer camp scholarships for at-risk youth

Saturday May 31  
Pecan Valley River Course  
8:00 am tee time

Contact: 817.965.6863 or ronnie.bierman@fortworthgov.org

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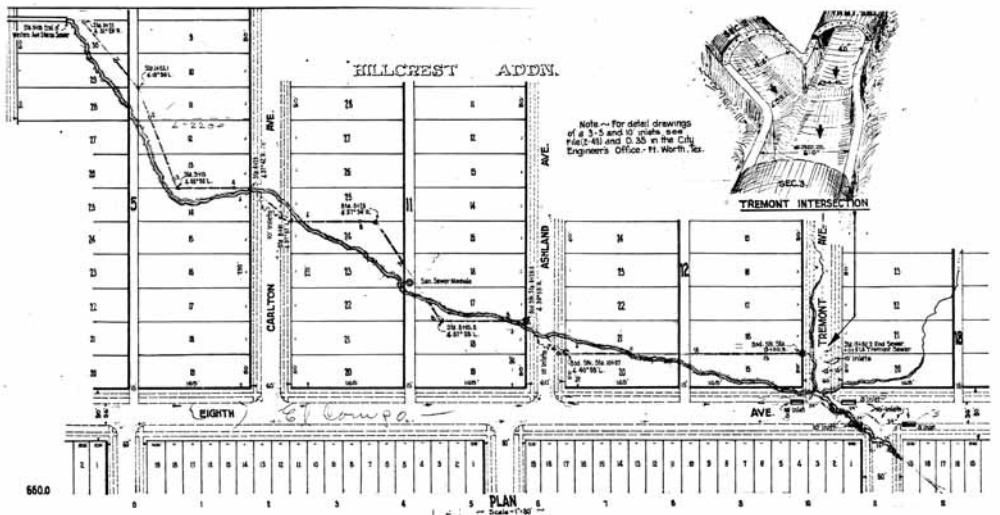


**FLOOD (continued from Page 1)**

The biggest thing to come out of the ad hoc committee was the recommendation to create a funding mechanism to replace aging infrastructure, just like scores of other cities have already done. The City Council officially adopted the Storm Water Utility in 2005 and we all started seeing an extra fee added to our monthly water bills. Every property owner in Fort Worth, both residential and commercial, pays the storm utility fee, based on the size of the lot and the amount of impervious surface on it. Most residents pay close to \$5 to the utility every month.

There are over 700 watersheds within Fort Worth city limits. Three of the largest ones are in Arlington Heights. Originally, the Central Arlington Heights watershed (Bryce, Western, Carleton, El Campo) drained through a natural channel (which became a creek during heavy rains) that flowed from the Camp Bowie Boulevard area near Hulen Street, southeast toward the Clear Fork of the Trinity River. Parts of Arlington Heights are essentially built on top of an ancient creek that flows down to the river.

In 1924, before most of the houses in our neighborhood were built, the city installed an underground pipe system to replace the channel in order to support development of homes, businesses and roads in the area. Engineers for the project followed the design standards in place at the time which appear to be based on how big the creek looked, not how much water came down it. They followed as closely as possible the natural path flow of water from Camp Bowie down to the river. 24-inch concrete pipes were placed near



*This storm drain construction drawing maps the conditions of central Arlington Heights in 1924, including an existing creek running from the upper right to the lower left that sent water southward to the Clear Fork of the Trinity River. Underground storm drain pipes were installed, roughly following the creek's path, and are the same ones in use today. Homes on Western, Carleton, Ashland and Tremont were built on top of the creek and storm drains. Eighth Avenue at the bottom of the drawing is now named El Campo Avenue.*

(Map courtesy of Traffic and Public Works Department/City of Fort Worth)

Camp Bowie and Hulen, expanding to 48 inches in diameter at Bryce, and expanding out to 72 inches in diameter at El Campo.

The Arlington Heights drainage system is one of the oldest in Fort Worth and no longer has sufficient capacity, according to the city's Traffic and Public Works Department. Runoff from even moderate storms causes flooding and property damage. Old habits die hard, so when there is an overflow of water, it still flows down, looking for the creek, following the path of nature's long-established channel underneath the homes on Western, Carleton, Ashland, Tremont and over to El Campo. Which explains why the water doesn't go straight down the street, but rather goes down the alley of Western, crosses over properties and the street, across the alley of Carleton and over more properties and the street.

What is frightening about the June 2004 flood in our neighborhood is that it is rated by city engineers to have been larger than a 2-year event, but smaller than a 5-year event. Our existing storm drain system can handle a 2-year

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event, meaning it can carry 1.7 inches of rain per hour or less, but a rain event of 2.2 inches of rain in one hour would cause flooding, according to a study conducted by the city in 2004. This study evaluated improvements to handle runoff from a 100-year storm event, with rainfall of 3.8 inches in the most intense hour and 9.2 inches in 24 hours.

The city hired Freese and Nichols, a local architectural and engineering firm, to conduct inundation studies using state of the art hydraulic computer modeling to map the extent of flooding and predict the level of inundation. Meanwhile, Steven Eubanks actually walked inside the length of our storm sewers, and his crews mapped and videotaped the conditions of it. Considering that the pipes are more than eighty years old and made of non-reinforced concrete, Eubanks found things underground to be in surprisingly good condition.

In 2002, a small study was done which estimated the basic cost to fix the flooding problem in Arlington Heights at about \$8 million. The most recent study has raised the cost to \$25 million or more, when all factors are considered. Solutions include a combination of tunnels and large storm drain pipes, ranging in cost from \$20 to \$49 million. "There are no easy solutions," according to Eubanks.

The traditional solution would be to install relief pipes with open cuts where there's existing pipe. But, where would the relief lines fit? If they follow the natural path of the flooding it will require moving several houses. If they follow the street grid, it would require replacing gas, water, and telephone lines—an almost impossible solution and prohibitively expensive. This isn't taking into account tearing up streets and re-building them and traffic disruptions.

Eubanks says the city has to look at options beyond the traditional ones, among them, surface detention storage tanks or underground detention storage tanks as the City of Dallas has done near Central Expressway. Tunneling

is another option which minimizes destruction of the neighborhood, but is the most expensive solution at \$3,000 per linear foot.

The Arlington Heights flooding project is one of the biggest public improvement projects the city has ever done. "We've never been down this road before," says Eubanks. "It's very complicated."

Beginning this summer, a value engineering study of the proposed improvements and alternatives to our neighborhood storm drain system will begin and will take into account the cost of disruptions, home buy outs, and so forth. A report on the findings will be ready by spring or summer of 2009. City staff will evaluate the results and make recommendations on the options for our neighborhood.

The goal is to recommend the most cost effective solution with the best value to City Council. "We would like to find a solution that will work in other parts of the city so we don't have to keep doing studies," according Eubanks. "Whatever we end up doing is not going to be pretty and is not going to make everyone happy."

Freese and Nichols has already been selected as the firm to design the final flood mitigation solution which will provide 100-year flood protection. Design work is expected to begin in late 2009 or early 2010. "There are 100 other public works projects all over the city that are in the process of being built before we get to Arlington Heights," says Eubanks, but "this project is moving as fast as it can," Eubanks continues. "We have to approach this cautiously." He estimates it will be 2011 or 2012 before actual construction begins in Arlington Heights.

Steven Eubanks and city engineers will present their findings and solution options on Monday June 16 at 6:30 p.m. at Arlington Heights United Methodist Church, 4200 Camp Bowie Blvd. (enter on Hillcrest) after the regularly scheduled business meeting of our neighborhood association. If you would like more information about the city's flood mitigation plans, please call Janice Thompson-Burgess in the Storm Water Management Division at 817/392-2104.

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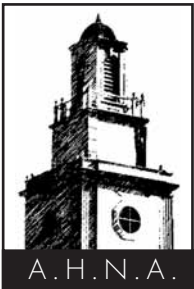
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