



JULY - AUGUST 2008

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS & VIEWS

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

MASONIC JEWEL OF ARLINGTON HEIGHTS

by Juliet George

How many times have you driven past the massive Greek temple on Camp Bowie Boulevard and Hulen Street and wondered what went on inside? It's rare to see any activity outside the building, but there's a lot going on inside and even more history behind it.

For the last 86 years, the Classic Revival architectural icon has served as the headquarters for Arlington Heights Masonic Lodge 1184, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. It is a recorded Texas Historic Landmark and is the oldest lodge building in Tarrant County, older by almost ten years than the monumental Masonic Center at the corner of Lancaster Avenue and Henderson Street, near downtown. It is also one of the oldest buildings on Camp Bowie Boulevard, predating everything near it except the 1909 Arlington Heights School at 5100 El Campo Avenue and First Church of Christ, Scientist (which was built in 1922 as Arlington Heights Presbyterian Church) at 4705 Camp Bowie. The Tarrant County Historic Resources Survey indicates that the Masonic building is eligible for listing with the National Register of Historic Places.

Among the founders of Arlington Heights Lodge were many veterans of World War I. In the years following the Armistice, mustered-out servicemen, who had learned to struggle and sacrifice in support of others in harm's way, sought to follow that pattern of mutual support at home. "In the military, you have a tight bond that is missing in civilian life," notes Joe R. Pearson, immediate past Worshipful Master of the Arlington Heights Lodge. "Accordingly, Masonry got a big influx of membership after both world wars," as did many other worldwide fraternal service organizations, such as the Elks, Odd Fellows, Knights of Columbus and the Knights of Pythias.

1921 was a year of record growth for Masonic lodges in Texas with 41 new lodges being instituted. When William F. Wortham, Jr., returned to Fort Worth after being stationed with the U.S. Navy in San Francisco, he told his father about all the beautiful Masonic lodges throughout that city. With his brother, Robert R. "Pete" Wortham, he began to advocate for a lodge in Arlington Heights, where his family lived. In November 1921, forty-six men met at the Arlington Heights School (now Boulevard Heights Transition School) and voted to petition the Grand Lodge of Texas for a charter which they received a month later.

Charles W. Laney was elected Worshipful Master, William C. Timmons as Senior Warden, William F. Wortham, Jr. as Junior



Arlington Heights Masonic Lodge 1184 was built in 1922 making it one of the oldest buildings on Camp Bowie Boulevard.

Warden, Francis H. Sparrow as Treasurer, and C. M. Doyle served as Secretary. George Thompson, M. L. Massingill and John Hancock, all prominent local attorneys, served on the bylaws committee.

Adolph E. Hartman, Francis Sparrow, owner of the Reliable Laundry, one of the city's first steam laundries, and William Stonestreet, a prominent clothier, were appointed to the building committee. A large triangular tract of land at Trolley Stop 15, bounded by Camp Bowie Boulevard, Kenley and Dexter Streets (coming to the point where Hulen Street is today) was purchased for \$3,750 by Stonestreet and Sparrow with their own personal funds. According to lodge records, the men purchased the land from W. H. Burch who had acquired it several months earlier with the down payment of a Haynes automobile and a \$1,000 promissory note. Sparrow and Stonestreet then donated the easternmost section of the property to the lodge for their new building.

The brothers considered three types of construction for their new building, including a simple frame structure, before deciding on a more substantial building with interior brick walls

(continued on Page 8)



A. H. N. A.

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Please address all correspondence to:

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Letter from a concerned neighbor

by Charlie "Average Joe" Murphy

I am in shock after attending the city's June 9 Gas Task Force public hearing where Fort Worth residents spoke with intelligence and despair. I learned that pipeline companies are exercising the rights of eminent domain to locate their delivery pipelines under people's front and back yards, taking out old growth trees and preventing property owners from ever building there. In some cases, they're buying people's homes outright and tearing them down and there is no legal recourse to stop this. Especially disturbing was testimony from a local attorney and long-time advocate of the gas and oil industry who warned the task force about the very serious dangers of wet, non-odorized gas lines that are allowed in Fort Worth. I have not slept very well since.

While our city leaders lavish praise on the important contributions the gas industry is making to this city and welcome them with open arms to lease the city's properties, the gas industry and their representatives have injected gold rush fever into the citizens and their elected officials, touting "how much you can get for doing nothing" without ever addressing the significant health and safety issues scientifically proven to result from drilling. Neighborhood associations have few options other than to negotiate a fair price and minimize a few of the negative impacts of the drilling.

Fort Worth already has 2,000 gas wells with another 1,000 on the way, and still so little information about the potential dangers of urban gas drilling. How can our elected officials sell these public assets without contradicting their fundamental obligation to protect the public welfare?

I googled "long term effects of gas drilling" and was astounded by the number of sites providing data about the negative effects, particularly in an urban setting. Go to nrdc.org/land/use/down/fdown.pdf to read the report of the Natural Resources Defense Council, an environmental non-profit organization, which describes the impacts on people's health and the surrounding air, water and land from the pollution created by oil and gas production. The report also examines the federal loopholes the industry routinely uses to continue polluting despite the risks. See how it matches up with Tommy Lee Jones' description of "the temporary inconvenience" of urban gas drilling.

It's time to start telling the truth about urban gas drilling. Neither state nor federal laws require energy companies to adequately disclose what chemicals are in the industrial products they use, or in what combination and how much they inject into the formation. Nor are the energy companies required to adequately monitor whether chemicals are escaping into nearby wells, streams, springs and the air, putting them essentially above the law.

I've seen a few brave souls speak out against the gas industry and then watched them quickly be ridiculed as uninformed kooks or troublemakers. If residents of Fort Worth understood the potential dangers of 3,000 gas wells in this city, I doubt they would allow their dog or cat to live here.

Contact Charlie at cmurphy48@sbcglobal.net or 817/377-4953.

Editor's note: We welcome all points of view in the AHNA newsletter

Fort Worth Police
non-emergency number:
817.335.4222

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

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

Code Compliance
Officer Gina Cabbage:
817.709.7439 (cell)
gina.cabbage@fortworthgov.org

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AHNA WEBSITE

Don't forget that Arlington Heights Neighborhood Association has an active website. Check it out at arlingtonheightсна.com and sign up for the gas update list there and tell us what you think by logging on to the blog section.

GAS PIPELINES AT JULY MEETING

Pipelines are a much-discussed topic in Fort Worth as a result of the spate of local eminent domain cases that have sprouted up in neighborhoods throughout the city. When you get drill sites, you're going to get pipelines, there's no way around it. You've got to transfer the gas from the well head over to the gathering line and that means a pipeline.

Health and safety issues surrounding pipelines have become a big concern among a growing number of residential property owners. We have invited some local experts to our membership meeting on Monday July 21 at 6:30pm. Mike Martin is an eminent domain attorney with Cotten, Schmidt Law Firm. Bill Fisher is an attorney with thirty years of experience in the gas pipeline business. Jerry Lobdill, a Sierra Club member, is a retired physicist who also has a degree in chemical engineering.

Parnell McGlinchey, the attorney who is actively negotiating the neighborhood lease for Arlington Heights, will also be on hand to answer your questions at the end of the meeting.

LIFE OF A FIREMAN AT AUGUST MEETING

The reality of being a fireman is not what you would think it is. How do these men and women actually spend their time? Mostly answering medical emergency calls, but they also conduct annual fire inspections for businesses in the area and spend time every day on upkeep of their fire truck and fire fighting equipment. Typically, fire fighters might fight a fire once a week, depending on the station.

Darren Jones, from our neighborhood fire station on Carleton Street, will be our guest speaker on Monday August 18 at 6:30pm. He will share with us stories about his job as a fireman and also give us some practical fire safety tips. He will also bring the fire truck as long as there is not an emergency call.

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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JULY/AUGUST 2008 Membership Form



AHNA Meeting Schedule

Monday July 21, 2008
Monday August 18, 2008
Monday September 15, 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 \$1,025.00
Business memberships \$100.00
Individual memberships \$1,890.00
League of Neighborhoods Award \$200.00

TOTAL ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE \$3,215.00

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE
Bank charge \$71.90
Office \$144.90
Postage \$128.50
Newsletter \$1,651.37
Web \$255.77
Insurance \$597.00
Oil/Gas Expenses \$177.00
Western Blvd. Trees \$876.25
Meeting Expenses \$433.98
Zoning Cases \$96.46
Yard of the Month \$30.15
Miscellaneous \$380.50
TOTAL ACCOUNTS PAYABLE \$4,893.67

BALANCE AS OF 6/30/08 \$9,140.71

FYI: NEIGHBORHOOD BRIEFS

Winslow's Wine Cafe opened to rave reviews in June. The 1924 gas station has been impeccably adapted into an attractive restaurant and retail wine outlet. The outdoor patio has been getting a lot of action... Meanwhile **Kincaid's** future at its original location on Camp Bowie is still up in the air. Ron Gentry, whose father started serving hamburgers there in 1964, confirms, "we're still trying to negotiate something that will allow us to stay at our home." As we went to press Gentry said that positive progress was being made in lease negotiations with the landlord. Stay tuned...The city's **Community Cable TV** Office has presented plans to **begin streaming on the internet** the municipal channel programming which includes all City Council meetings, as well as Zoning and Board of Adjustment Commission hearings. Presently, they only broadcast to cable television subscribers. The streaming could begin as early as October... **Dana King** joined the AHNA Executive Committee mid-year. She is an architect who has been a key player in getting the AHNA Traffic Plan off the ground, distributed and approved. Welcome aboard, Dana!..Preservationists and real estate agents will converge at an all day workshop "**Profiting from Preservation, A Guide to Historic Preservation, Practices, Policies and Incentives**" to be held on Friday August 15. Sponsored by Historic Fort Worth, Inc., in cooperation with the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Neighborhood Revitalization Committee of Greater Fort Worth Association of Realtors, the workshop will run from 8:30am until 4:30pm at 2650 Parkview Drive in Fort Worth. Speakers include Daniel Carey, Director of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Southwest Office, Larry Abrigg, Historic Preservation Officer for the City of Fort Worth, and Historic Fort Worth's Mary Saltarelli who will present "Researching the History of Your Old House". Cost of the one-day course is \$150. Realtors receive seven hours of MCE credit upon completion of the course. To register or to get more information, contact Mary Saltarelli at mary_saltarelli@historicfortworth.org or 817-336-2344, ext. 107...The mayor and City Council initiated this spring a series of public hearings to give citizens throughout the city an opportunity "to share your ideas, suggestions and dreams for Fort Worth". "**Let's Talk Fort Worth**" will culminate with a citywide town hall meeting on Thursday September 25 from

6:30pm until 8:00pm. You can send in your written by going to www.LetsTalkFortWorth.org...Crime is always a top concern in our neighborhood and throughout the city. On Tuesday July 29 from 7:00pm until 8:00pm, the Fort Worth Police Department will hold a **police public awareness forum** at Highland Hills Community Center, 1600 Glasgow Road. Citizens will have the opportunity to learn about the Police Department's latest projects and programs, ask questions and give feedback to police officials. Interim Chief of Police Pat Knebllick and other Police Department representatives will attend the forum. If you care about what happens in your neighborhood, please attend this forum. For more information, contact Officer Sharron Neal at 817/392-4215...Are your kids bored this summer? It's not too late to enroll them at **Thomas Place Community Center's Camp 360**, 4237 Lafayette, where you'll find a full day of educational and fun activities five days a week for kids ages 5-13. Camp 360 runs through August 22 and costs \$95 per week and includes lunch. Activities include field trips, swimming, art, music, drama, and science. For more information, call the Center at 817/735-1751.



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GAS LEASE UPDATE

by Beth Kaufmann

Many of you are wondering how long it will take to finalize a deal. We are working directly with operators, not leasing agents, and are waiting on other west side groups that are negotiating their quality of life (QOL) terms and monitoring their progress. Our attorney will be available after our regular monthly neighborhood meeting on Monday July 21st to answer your gas lease questions. Please understand that due to the sensitivity of negotiations, he may not be able to answer all questions.

As any land man can tell you, gas leasing is more than just the bonus money. The leases we sign will be in effect for the next 50-75 years. The next generation, our heirs, will be wrestling with the outcome of what we negotiate. QOL issues we want addressed include, among others, safety, noise abatement, dust and light control, truck traffic, eminent domain, and location of pipelines. Standard lease forms don't address these issues, and we also want to make sure the lease provides for a fair and proper royalty calculation. We want to get our slice from the biggest piece of pie—gas sold at a hub, with market forces dictating the price—not the size pie the operator wants to give us. Standard lease forms calculate royalty "at the wellhead," where there is no competitive market and the operator is essentially free to pick a number. If leasing agents and land men are pushing you to sign, it's because the deal favors them. We want to be sure the final deal works in our favor as well.

Urban gas drilling is a complicated process. Folks who say we are shortsighted or selfish to consider the long-term repercussions of how the drilling will affect us are just impatient to have us sign the lease

they are offering so they can control all the terms. They don't want us to consider the long term impact—the sooner they can get us to sign, the sooner they can get us out of their way. We deserve better. These are our minerals, under our homes, in our neighborhoods. The gas isn't going anywhere. We will literally have to live with whatever we decide. The energy operator won't.

Arlington Heights is one of the largest single neighborhoods to consider leasing, and we are situated over a sweet spot of the Barnett Shale. Hundreds of millions of dollars are at stake. Here are some mind-boggling numbers to contemplate. At 622 acres, AHNA is almost one square mile. One square mile contains about 140 billion cubic feet of gas. Put another way, that's roughly 140 million MCFs of gas. With natural gas at a modest \$7 per MCF, that's an economic potential of \$980,000,000, almost one billion dollars, under our homes. Energy companies will recover about 20% of that 980 million dollars in five to ten years, or about \$200 million. They may extract more as technology improves. How much of that income will you get? And how much will you sacrifice in safety, inconvenience, decreased property values, noise and pollution, and legal hassles to get it?

Be sure before you sign! AHNA will send a mass mailing and blast email when we are ready to recommend a deal. The best way to stay informed on how we're progressing is to go to our revamped website, www.arlingtonheightsna.com click on the gas lease page and subscribe. When in doubt, please check the website or call a member of the AHNA executive committee. In the meantime, be aware that leasing agents are still working the neighborhood trying to sign up neighbors. If you sign their offers, we cannot help you, and you will be stuck with the financial and QOL terms in their lease. Remember that these folks are paid to get you to sign, so they will likely tell you anything to get you to sign over your mineral rights. Thank you again for staying informed and sticking with us.

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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GAS TASK FORCE

The Fort Worth City Council appointed an 18-member Gas Drilling Task Force of citizens and industry representatives in February to examine the city's gas drilling ordinance and to make recommendations on changing it. The Task Force has convened more than ten times and in June conducted its first public hearing.

A second public hearing is scheduled for Monday August 11 at 6:30pm in City Council chambers at 1000 Throckmorton. Anyone may speak at the hearing as long as you fill out a speaker's card at the beginning of the meeting. Contact Sarah Fullenwider for more information at 817/392-7619 or sarah.fullenwider@fortworthgov.org or kristen.roberts@fortworthgov.org.

On Thursday August 7, a workshop on gas pipelines will be presented to members of the City Council and the Gas Drilling Task Force from 1:00pm-3:00pm at the South Texas Room, Will Rogers Memorial Center. This workshop is open to the public, but no public comments will be taken until the August 11 public hearing.



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GAS DRILLING EDUCATIONAL SERIES

The Fort Worth League of Neighborhoods and League of Women Voters of Tarrant County are co-sponsoring a series of public education events on gas drilling issues. The first will be on "Gas Pipelines and Eminent Domain" on Thursday August 7, 2008 at 7:00pm at First Presbyterian Church, 1000 Penn St. Featured speakers will be attorneys Glenn Sodd of Corsicana and Jim Bradbury, member of the Fort Worth's Gas Drilling Task Force. "Gas Well Water Disposal: Two Alternatives" will be presented on Wednesday August 13 at 7:00pm at the Intermodal Transportation Center, 9th and Jones St. in downtown. Woody Sandlin with Chesapeake Energy will talk about injection wells and Jay Ewing of Devon Energy and Julia Holden of Fountain Quail Water Management will make a presentation on wastewater recycling. Future sessions in the series will focus on gas pipelines and safety, provisions in model municipal gas drilling ordinances, and mineral rights leasing issues. For more information go to fwlna.org.

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JULY 2008 YARD OF THE MONTH

by Meda Kessler

Virginia Place is one of our favorite streets in Arlington Heights and not just for its proximity to Curly's. Tatiana and Chris Wicke's yard at 1805 Virginia Place is a standout for its border beds that frame the property and the home. A small purple plum tree holds court in one corner while fragrant perennials such as peppery salvia greggii and red and orange lantana mix with silver-gray artemisia and purple coneflowers. Add feathery grasses and low-growing shrubs and you have a low-maintenance garden that's a visual treat.

"When we moved in here in May 2005, there was nothing but a patch of grass," says Tatiana. "The only thing we kept was a crepe myrtle in front of the fireplace." A small white arbor covered with a cream pink-tipped climbing Sombreuil double rose signals the entrance to the yard. The porch columns feature plant-covered trellises that help frame the view from the front porch out to the garden. The narrow sidewalk leading to the front door is flanked on both sides with more salvia and artemisia. Brush by these plants and a subtle aroma of pepper and licorice fills the air.



Tatiana and Chris Wicke's yard at 1805 Virginia Place features a small arbor covered with a climbing rose. Salvia and artemisia flank the sidewalk leading to the front door.

Tatiana worked with her veteran gardener mother, Carol Brooks, to design the front yard garden, picking plants that were indigenous to Texas, "with a couple of special things thrown in there." Last year they planted a Texas willow tree that can live over 100 years, "so hopefully it will be there that long," says Tatiana. Also, featured in the garden are purple dwarf crepe myrtles, purple hearts by the driveway and echinacea which has gone into overdrive this season. The low-lying grasses Tatiana has chosen are zebra grasses "that shoot out these big puffy fronds in the late summer." Future plans include moving some fringe flowers and putting in dwarf fountain grass and other low maintenance grasses.

When they're not gardening, Tatiana and Chris are solidifying plans for the opening of their Wickedeli, a German-American deli and grocery, that will open in early 2009 somewhere in our neighborhood. Chris is a Senior Pricing Analyst with government contractor Computer Sciences Corporation.

Congratulations to the Wickes who as the recipients of the AHNA July Yard of the Month award will receive a \$25 gift certificate from Calloway's.

If you would like to nominate a yard for the upcoming months, please contact me at medakessler@charter.net or at 817/688-2545.

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MASONIC (continued from Page 1)

faced with a brick exterior. John C. "Jack" Davies, a member of the lodge, was selected as architect for the new Masonic lodge building. The contractor was Walter L. Cox whose imprint survives today on a number of our neighborhood sidewalks.

Ground was broken for the new lodge building in March 1922. When construction of the foundation reached cornerstone level, the date of May 23, 1922 was set for a formal ceremony to lay the cornerstone for the Arlington Heights Lodge. Timed to coincide with the sunset, the ceremony drew a crowd from the growing neighborhood. Knights Templar and representatives of the Grand Lodge of Texas and other lodges traveled to Fort Worth to participate in the outdoor ceremony. A squad from the drill team of Worth Commandery, under the direction of Robert A. Spain, acted as escort to the grand officers.

Before the stone was laid and leveled, Fort Worth's Masonic Home Band performed a short concert. A box containing a Bible, an amulet from Jerusalem, a bead from Constantinople, a collar button from Frank Sparrow's Reliable Laundry, cards and coins from those attending the ceremony, and copies of the lodge's charter, constitution and bylaws and other papers was placed inside the cornerstone. It was sprinkled with corn, oil and wine, symbolically representing plenty, contentment, and joy. Following the ceremony, Dr. J. K. Thompson, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, who acted as Grand Chaplain, addressed the crowd. A barbecue dinner followed under the direction of Frank P. Singer.



The cornerstone for Arlington Heights Masonic Lodge 1184 was laid and levelled at a formal ceremony on May 23, 1922. Knights Templar and representatives of the Grand Lodge of Texas and other lodges traveled to participate in the event.

(Photo courtesy of Arlington Heights Masonic Lodge 1184)

The formidable, elegant brick lodge building was officially dedicated on January 3, 1923. Total cost of the building is estimated to have been \$20,000. There was no cooling of any kind in the lodge room, not even fans.

Historically, the Masons set cornerstones on other buildings, including the 1923 Fort Worth Fire Station #18 at the corner of Camp Bowie Boulevard and Carleton Street and the 1927 Stripling High School (now Stripling Middle School) on Clover Lane.

Today, the ground floor of the sturdy lodge building is set with long tables and a kitchen in the back. Dinner is served every second Tuesday when the brethren gather for their regular monthly meeting. Display cases filled with Masonic certificates, emblems, and memorabilia cover the walls. The *Fort Worth Record's* commemorative photographic montage of the cornerstone ceremony hangs in its original frame with the title set in a Jazz Age font.

A portrait of George Washington, a well-known Mason, is prominently displayed at the top of the second-floor stairway, just outside the lodge hall. Tools and symbols of the Mason's craft are exhibited in shadowboxes. Hats worn

Arlington Heights Christian Church



4629 Bryce Ave. at Camp Bowie Blvd
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by past Worshipful Masters through the decades hang on a row of pegs nearby.

The Lodge Hall is a breathtaking expanse of a room, dominated by a curved lathe-and-plaster ceiling, painted sky blue with white clouds and studded with brass stars. Circular and arched stained-glass windows have stood the test of time. Most of the original wooden bench seats were handed down to other lodges years ago, replaced with padded turquoise folding theater seats. Several of the original quarter-sawn white oak chairs remain. World War II flags, preserved in a special corner of the lodge hall, show stars representing Brothers who served in the military.

The membership of the Arlington Heights Lodge has always represented a range of callings, faiths, and social strata, from printers, plumbers and salesmen to bankers and lawyers. As Jim Ed Clark, a past Worshipful Master, notes, Freemasonry emphasizes what unites, not what divides. Religion and politics are not discussion topics. "We have Christian, Muslim, and Jewish Masons," he says. "We require belief in a monotheistic faith."

Clark followed his heart and his father's example, adding himself to the roster of a new generation of Masons. Among benefits of membership, he especially appreciates the fact that Masons throughout the world stand ready to help each other. When his wife travels on business, she knows she can call on a local lodge in any country and receive help if she encounters problems. Clark also belongs to the Widows Sons Masonic Riders Association which helps Masons' widows and orphans and raises Masonic awareness through sport motorcycling. When Clark takes his Harley-Davidson on the road, he visits other lodges. He has traveled to twenty-nine states in the last year.

Masonic lodges vary in their focus, but they all emphasize community, fellowship and the pursuit of character building. The origins of Masonry date back to Biblical times when Masons were ancient stonemasons who practiced what is today referred to as "operative" Masonry. Since the 1700s, "speculative" Masonry has been practiced in the lodges that no longer require members to be craftsmen. However, they continue to honor the "operatives" through symbolic ritual and ethics.

Arlington Heights Lodge members have always worked together for service to the community and charity, participating in Mayfest and other local events as well as raising funds for educational scholarships, children's hospitals, homes, and facilities for aged Masons and Eastern Star members. In past years, they hosted well-chaperoned public dances at the lodge, where smoking and drinking have always been forbidden. They prefer to help quietly and out of the spotlight, according to Clark.



The Lodge Hall on the second floor is a breathtaking expanse of a room, dominated by a curved lathe-and-plaster ceiling, painted sky blue with white clouds and studded with brass stars. Most of the original wooden bench seats were handed down to other lodges years ago, but several original quarter-sawn white oak chairs remain.

The members all bring their respective skills to the property on Camp Bowie as exemplars of do-it-yourself, sleeves-rolled-up building and grounds maintenance. One of the lodge's oldest living members is William Womack, who became a Mason in June 1945. Although he now lives outside the neighborhood, he still attends meetings at his Camp Bowie lodge. "It does wonders for the neighborhood," he states. Regarding those who would be Masons, he notes, "The men who come into these lodges, they're well looked into, known in the community. They must be settled down. If the others don't feel good about him, he won't be admitted."

"They can't have a criminal record," adds Ivan Wallace, who has been a Mason for more than fifty years. "If they develop one, they are out." He, too, lives elsewhere now but still keeps his membership in the Arlington Heights lodge.

Many sunsets have occurred since the end-of-the-day cornerstone setting in 1922. Today, Arlington Heights Lodge 1184 has close to 300 members on its roster. With younger members, like Jim Ed Clark, continuing to join the ranks, it will be there for many more years. In an era of rapid change, offers to buy the building have come in, but as Clark reflects, "Some structures ought to stand for permanence. You want certain buildings to be icons."

To learn more about the Arlington Heights Lodge, to arrange a personal tour of the building, and to see more historic photographs, please visit their website: <http://lodge1184.fwculture.info>



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