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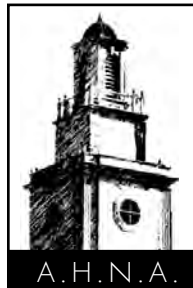
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NEWSLETTER OF THE ARLINGTON HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION • WWW.ARLINGTONHEIGHTSNA.COM

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS

MARCH - APRIL 2011

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS & VIEWS

NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME PRIMER

"Don't leave anything in your car" became one of Neighborhood Patrol Officer Teri Majors' favorite mantras when she was assigned to the Arlington Heights beat in 2007. "Call 911 if you see anything suspicious in the neighborhood" and "keep your porch light on all night" are two of her other favorite slogans. If she's told us once, she's told us a thousand times, there are a lot of things we can do to keep from becoming the next crime statistic--it's up to us to do it.

Anyone who's signed up to get the daily neighborhood crime e-mail report already knows that property crime has spiked in our neighborhood over the last year. A typical week includes several car break-ins, almost always at night. Cars are also being stolen out of our driveways, including cars that were locked and cars that are not high-end cars.

House break-ins are also on the increase, occurring almost always during the day, most often right after people leave for work in the morning. Some property owners have left their houses for just an hour and return to find their homes broken into. Home invasions are rare, but a few months ago a neighbor who lives north of Camp Bowie was robbed at gunpoint on his front porch when he came home from work.

This up tick crime is happening everywhere, so Arlington Heights isn't being singled out, but there are some unique characteristics about our neighborhood that make us more vulnerable to certain property crimes.

As Officer Majors warned us in her special presentation at the January AHNA meeting, thieves "shop" our neighborhood. Just like you and I go to the grocery store to shop, they cruise our neighborhood looking for opportunities to get things to acquire. Among the most common "opportunities" is property left in cars, including purses, cell phones, GPS systems, and backpacks. Officer Majors pointed out that a thief has no idea that it's just a bunch of school books in the backpack on the backseat--there could be a wallet in there, for all they know. And putting your stuff on the floor, or tucked under the seat isn't enough. If you can still see it, so can the thief.

Apparently, so many people in our neighborhood leave things in their cars, we've become known as a good place for thieves to go shopping. As long as they find what they're looking for, they'll keep coming back. And they'll tell their friends, too.

Why aren't they "shopping" the more affluent neighborhoods nearby? Because most of those homes have garages to park their cars in. Drive through our neighborhood at night and you'll see how many cars are parked on the street and in our driveways overnight. Few of our homes were designed to shelter more than one or two cars. Some homes never had a garage. Some of the original garages have collapsed and not been replaced. More often, our garages have become storage units filled with our junk with no room left for a car. So, it's just a fact of life that there are lots of cars parked every night in Arlington Heights.

What to do to protect ourselves? First off, never leave anything in open sight in your car, not even CDs. Believe it or not, we've had cars broken into for a few CDs or some loose coins in a cup holder. Secondly, lighting is an excellent defense. Affordable electric eyes are available that are easily screwed directly into a light bulb socket. Keep your porch lights on all night and focus floodlights on your cars. Most thieves will move on and look for more accessible dark targets.



Overgrown shrubbery, especially in front of windows, provides good cover to burglars and easy entry into your home. According to our Neighborhood Patrol Officer Teri Majors, burglars will avoid anything that makes their job harder so she recommends keeping the shrubbery profiles low around our homes.

Electronic alarm systems are effective deterrents, especially if they're monitored. Several of our neighbors have installed high-tech infrared cameras and linked them to their computers for 24-hour surveillance. There are also more affordable options that are equally effective, like a steering wheel lock or even a vigilant barking dog.

Go outside and look at your house with the eyes of a thief. Since most homes are broken into by having the back door kicked in, walk around back to the alley to see what your home looks like from there. Is your back gate padlocked? Is your wood fence installed so the horizontal planks are facing the alley, making it easy to climb over? Is your new flat screen TV easily seen through the window from the street?

According to Officer Majors, flat screen TVs are one of the most popular items stolen because thieves can sell them quickly on the black market. Driving through our neighborhood, you'd be surprised to discover how many big screen TVs you can see through living room picture windows. Folks, you might as well advertise on Craigslist to come and get it. Same with when you get a new TV or computer and you put the box out on the curb for trash pick up for all the world to see. Take the extra time to crush it up and put in your recycling trash can. And consider curtains or blinds for the front of your house. Or move your TV so it's not easily seen from the sidewalk or someone just driving through the neighborhood.

Keep a record of the serial numbers on your valuables. Better yet, put RAPIDS stickers on them. The RAPIDS program was started by the police department in 2009 and has been successful in getting stolen property back to owners. The RAPIDS computer program generates small, hard to remove stickers that are bar-coded with your driver's license. More than fifty people got stickers at the January AHNA meeting when we had the RAPIDS machine there. We'll have the RAPIDS machine at our monthly meeting on Monday April 18. You can also request RAPIDS stickers by downloading a request form at arlingtonheightsna.com.

(continued on Page 11)



Letter from the President

By Christina Patoski

A few years ago we celebrated in this newsletter the fact that Arlington Heights had the lowest crime rate in the city. Unfortunately, things have changed. I've been surprised to see the number of car break-ins and thefts we've been having in our neighborhood and was even more surprised when my family recently became one of the statistics.

We've been vigilant about lighting up the driveway where we park our cars. We always lock the cars and ever since our car was broken into for just a couple of CDs, we never leave a single thing in the car.

Nevertheless, one Sunday in January we woke up to our dog barking about three in the morning. My husband got up and peeked outside at the cars, but didn't see anything, so we went back to bed. It wasn't until the next day when he went to get into his car and discovered that the door handle had been pried open and the steering wheel was cracked apart. At least the door handle still worked, in fact you could barely see the pry job. A little super glue took care of the steering wheel, so no big deal.

We called our Neighborhood Patrol Officer Teri Majors to come out and take a look. She said that our barking dog was probably the reason our car was still in the driveway. She estimated that if the thief had had just one more minute, the car would have been gone.

In retrospect, our decision to not replace the broken car alarm was not a good one. It's a serviceable car, but nothing to write home about. Considering it's seventeen years old and has 300,000 miles on it, we didn't think anyone would want to steal it. Officer Majors said for some reason they wanted our car, speculating maybe for the parts.

Please know that AHNA is working hard to turn things around. The most effective tool for fighting crime is a close-knit community that's informed and watches out for each other. The AHNA Executive Board has made the commitment to make neighborhood crime a year-long initiative. We're working closely with our Neighborhood Patrol Officer and our Citizens on Patrol to produce programs and speakers at our meetings that will be of interest to all of our neighbors.

In the meantime, trust your instincts. If something doesn't seem right, don't wait. Go to the phone and call 911 and ask them come out and investigate.

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

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

**Neighborhood Patrol Officer
Teri Majors:
817.992-0187 (cell)
teri.majors@fortworthgov.org**

**Code Compliance Officer
Carolyn Cummings:
817.475.8716
carolyn.cummings@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 Makenzie Carpenter at newsletter@arlingtonheightsna.com. 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.

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Current circulation is 350 households bi-monthly.
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NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME PRIMER (continued from Page 1)

Another good idea is to create layers of protection in our doors and windows, like installing a glass or screen door and keeping it locked from the inside, or installing storm windows or using locked screens on the windows.

Deadbolt locks are a must--some people double up and install an extra deadbolt in the upper part of the door to make it more difficult to gain entry by kicking in the door. Using 6-inch screws to bolt your front and back doors into their frames is another effective step you can take to protect your home.

Keep your garage doors shut at all times; why would you want advertise what's in there? Same for your car trunk--don't leave your open car unattended even if you're going inside your house "for just a minute". That's all it takes for someone to drive by and see an opportunity.

Nothing says "we're out of town" more than a pile of newspapers out front and an overflowing mailbox with a week's worth of handbills tied to the front door. Before you leave town, stop delivery of your newspaper and mail or ask a neighbor to pick them up and you can do the same for them when they go out of town. If you see newspapers piling up at your neighbor's house, be a good neighbor and move them somewhere out of sight on their porch or take them home and leave your neighbors a note.

Answering your door has become something to be cautious about, according to Officer Majors, especially when you're not expecting visitors. It's been so ingrained in us to answer our door when the doorbell rings and to be polite to anyone who shows up there. These days criminals play this to their advantage. Seniors especially have a difficult time understanding the importance of screening your visitors before opening the door because they are more trusting and are used to the bygone days where you didn't have worry about who was at your front door. And seniors are most often the ones who are preyed upon because of this.

Officer Majors advises us that it's a good policy to not open your door

to anyone who you don't know. If your doorbell rings, ask them to identify themselves and what they want before opening the door even a crack. Do not open your door to strangers, even to a friendly solicitor or someone taking a survey. They can be scoping out your valuables and come back later to get them. Or they can push their way in once you've opened the door, as one man did to one of our neighbors near Clover Lane on a Saturday morning a few years ago. Luckily he didn't have a gun and she managed to escape with just a punch in the face. If you don't have a peephole, it's easy to have one drilled into your door to see who's on your front porch.

Door to door solicitors frequently work our neighborhood as do handbill distributors. Both are legal in Fort Worth. Solicitors must be registered with the city. Officer Majors cautions us that when we see either of them walking in the neighborhood to get a good description of the person and call 911 before opening the door to them. "Let the police check out whether they're registered with the city or not," she says. Better yet, she reminds us that there is a city ordinance that prohibits solicitors or handbill distributors to approach your house if you have a sign displayed that says either "No Trespassing", "No Handbills" or "No Solicitors". There's a \$500 fine if someone ignores your sign and rings your doorbell anyway or puts handbills on your door. Officer Majors encourages us to consider displaying signs like this on a widespread basis throughout our neighborhood.

Since most of the thieves caught in our neighborhood don't live here, one of the best defenses is keeping a watchful eye out for anything unusual. Be suspicious of people circling the block or just sitting in their cars. Get license plate numbers and call 911 so they can run a check on the cars. Call 911 if you see school age kids in the neighborhood during school hours.

If you see someone or something in the neighborhood that doesn't seem right, Officer Majors advises us to immediately call 911 and let them come out and do the investigating. The more calls that come in from our neighborhood, the more patrol officers will be assigned to us. The non-emergency police number is answered by the 911 people, so Officer Majors says to just call 911.

FAVORITE SWIMMING POOL SHUT DOWN?



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TIS THE SEASON....FOR FLEAS!

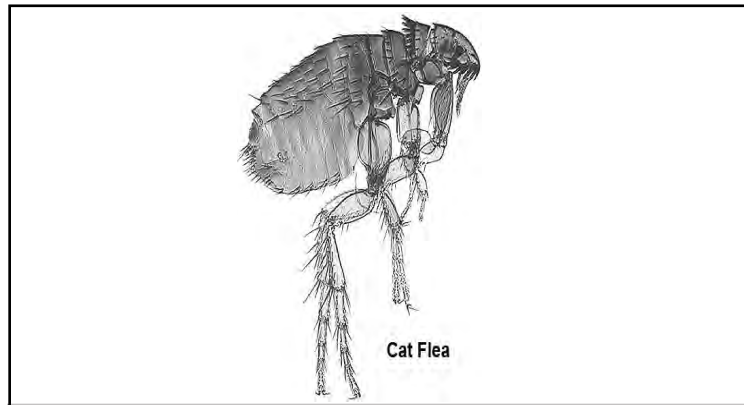
By Dr. Jimmy Davis, Arlington Heights Animal Hospital

I love this time of year. The weather is near perfect, everything is turning green again, and there are so many activities to be had outdoors. With it too, however, brings something I don't particularly like... BUGS!! If you've lived in Texas a while you know what I'm talking about. Now, I could write a novel on the various species of bugs that we have in Texas, but I don't have the space, nor do I want to put you to sleep. So, I would like to discuss one of the more relevant creepy crawlies that I find significant to my line of work. Yep, you guessed it... fleas.

I see so many cases, this time of year regarding flea infestations and flea allergies. In the majority of these cases too, the problem can be easily prevented. The three most common mistakes that occur when treating for fleas are improper use and/or application of the flea control product, incorrect dosage and quality of product, and inconsistent and intermittent use (which I'll extend on this further). There are so many products available for flea control that it can be confusing which products are even worth your money. Some of these products, if used improperly can cause serious illness and even death in some of our pets. For this reason alone, I recommend that you consult with your veterinarian on the best products available and the correct application of these products.

Inconsistent use of flea control products is a major problem when we think about how fleas perpetuate themselves. Think about this... 95 percent of the flea life cycle is off of the dog and cat. This means that the majority of our problem isn't even on our pets. It's in our house and in our yard. This is compounded by the fact that some of the immature stages are very resilient to environmental stressors, including temperature changes. Here's another fact, adult fleas and ticks both are found active in Texas as late as November and as early as February. So, not only are adult fleas active for 10 months of the year, but their babies can survive much of what we call a winter. Therefore, if we are only treating the adults for six months out of the year, then we allow many of them to live and reproduce, thereby multiplying exponentially. Think about it.

So how do we do combat this? As I mentioned, purchasing the correct product and applying it to the animal correctly is one step in the control of these nasty bugs, and nasty they are. Proper and timely treatment of the environment can be necessary in certain instances as well. Remember that the majority of the flea life cycle is found off of our pets. Many of the products available have drugs in them that kill and prevent the younger stages from becoming



Fleas feed on blood and can bite up to 400 times a day; that's a rate of 4,000 bites a day on a pet that is host to just 10 fleas. Proper and consistent use of flea treatment is essential to controlling these pests.

adults. Again, consult your veterinarian, about which products are best for this use, and read, read, read the labels before using them.

I would like to leave the reader with one more thought. Flea allergies are the most common type of allergy that we see. It's been shown that the incidence of allergies to fleas can be increased by the intermittent use of flea control products. In conclusion, with the help of your veterinarian, we can hopefully reduce the prevalence of these pesky bugs, and the problems that they present to our family pets.



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SQUARE FOOT GARDENING AT MARCH MEETING

The annual spring symphonies have begun to unfold in our yards, sparking the inner gardener in many of us. If you've been thinking about planting a vegetable garden and need a little inspiration, come and meet Julie Whitis who will be our featured speaker at the membership meeting on Monday March 21 at 6:30 pm.

Whitis is a certified Square Foot Gardening instructor who will show us her easy method that requires no digging, weeding or tilling and requires very little space. Plus, you can get your vegetable garden going in one day! Square Foot Gardening doesn't require the use of pesticides, saves on water and works especially well in the Texas heat. Whitis will have garden grids for sale as well as copies of the Square Foot Gardening book by originator Mel Bartholomew.

CRIME ROUNDTABLE IN APRIL

There's no better way to learn than through sharing our experiences with each other. As part of our year-long initiative to turn around the current crime trends in our neighborhood, the membership meeting on Monday April 18 will feature a roundtable of our neighbors who have had their homes and cars burglarized. We will discuss each of their particular cases and analyze what they could have done to avert becoming a victim of crime. Kala Sloan, Crime Prevention Specialist with FWPD, will be on hand to answer any questions. The meeting starts at 6:30 pm.

Due to popular demand, we will have the RAPIDS property recovery bar code machine at our meeting again, so be sure to come and get your free stickers to put on your valuables.

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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MARCH • APRIL 2011 Membership Form



AHNA Meeting Schedule

Monday, March 21, 2011
Monday, April 18, 2011
Monday, May 16, 2011

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 1/01/11	\$6,312.07
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	
Advertising	\$400.00
Business memberships	\$25.00
Individual memberships	\$535.00
Interest Income	\$14.30
TOTAL ACCOUNT RECEIVABLE	\$974.30
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	
League of Neighborhoods	\$35.00
Postage	\$84.90
Newsletter	\$200.00
Feral Cats	\$40.00
Meeting Expense	\$107.00
Web	\$166.80
National Night Out	\$30.82
TOTAL ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	\$664.52
BALANCE AS OF 02/28/11	\$6,621.85

NEIGHBORHOOD BRIEFS

AHNA Yard of the Month awards begin in April. If you'd like to nominate a yard, please contact Elizabeth Bartolomei at 817-965-1818 or ejbartolomei@gmail.com...If you're a runner, here are two great opportunities: **Susan Komen Race for the Cure** is Saturday April 9, and the **14th annual Zoo Run** is Saturday, April 16...**Main Street Fort Worth Arts Festival** takes place April 14-17. To volunteer, call 817-336-ARTS (2787)... **26th annual Cowtown Great American Cleanup** is Saturday April 2 from 9 a.m. to noon. The deadline to register is March 17. For more information, call Debbie Branch at 817-392-5151...**City of Fort Worth elections** are on May 14. Only 3,000 people voted in our district (less than 6% of registered voters) in the last City Council election. Elected officials can have a tremendous impact on our lives, so it's important that you vote. Mayoral candidates include Dan Barrett, Cathy Hirt, Jim Lane, Betsy Price and Nicholas Zebrun. City Council candidates running for Arlington Heights' District 7 seat include Jack Ernest, Jonathan Horton and Dennis Shingleton. For more information, visit fortworthgov.org and click on Elections. If you're not registered to vote, download an application at tarrantcounty.com.

OFFICER TERI MAJORS WELL DESERVED RETIREMENT

By Kelly Jo Nial

Officer Teri Majors has announced her plans to retire in March from the Fort Worth Police Department. Please join us after our March general meeting on Monday March 21 for a reception to thank her for the commitment and friendship she gave to all of us in Arlington Heights. Word on the street is she is a big fan of Dr. Pepper--nothing says "Thank You!" like a cold Dr. Pepper! Look for a special feature article in the next newsletter about Officer Majors and her efforts that made our lives safer and happier in the neighborhood.

Also on the slate for our March meeting will be an official welcome to our new Neighborhood Police Officer (NPO) Ken Jacobs.

com or pick one up at Tarrant County Elections Center or at any Tarrant County sub-courthouse, as well as all post offices, libraries, public assistance offices and city halls. Deadline to register is April 14 if you want to be able vote ...Need inexpensive, family-friendly spring break ideas? **Bureau of Engraving and Printing Western Currency Facility Tour and Visitors Center** 9000 Blue Mound Road in Fort Worth, offers tours Monday through Friday every 30 minutes from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m...**Amon Carter Museum** is hosting a free week of Western-themed family fun from 10:30 a.m to noon March 15-18. Call 817-738-1933 for more information...**Kimbell Art Museum's** free Spring Break Art Extravaganza is March 15-18. Call 817-332-8451 for more information...**Thomas Place Community Center** is offering several new classes including hip hop, ballet and personal training. Ongoing classes include yoga, karate, kung fu and senior group fitness. Spring Break Camp for ages 5-13 will take place March 14-18 for only \$10 per day. Don't forget about the annual Easter Egg Hunt from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on April 23. Call 817-735-1751 for hours and membership information.



Join us after the March General Membership meeting for a farewell reception honoring Officer Teri Majors. Pictured is Officer Majors (left) and our new NPO Officer Ken Jacobs (right)

COMMUNITY GARDEN UPDATE

By Tatiana Wicke, 817-946-2949



Come out and help us clean out the Community Garden from 10:00 a.m. to noon on Saturday March 26 at Thomas Place Community Center.

Calling all Arlington Heights residents! Interested in getting more involved with your direct neighbors and community? Like the outdoors and/or working in the dirt? We need volunteers for the Community Garden at Thomas Place Community Center.

Spring has sprung, and our lovely little garden is in need of some serious clean-up! We need help:

- Digging-up grass / weeds
- Tilling the boxes
- Laying down mulch
- Planting for Summer / Fall

Our first VOLUNTEER DAY is scheduled from 10:00 a.m. to noon on Saturday March 26 at Thomas Place Community Center. If you are interested in donating plants or seed or would like to adopt a bed, please just let me know. See you next month!

CONSTRUCTION ON CRESTLINE IN ARLINGTON HEIGHTS

By Dana Dickson, Arlington Heights resident

About 40 affected homeowners attended a public meeting on February 24, 2011 at Thomas Place Community Center to hear the City of Fort Worth Transportation & Public Works department explain the 2007 Critical Capital Project - Part 3: Pavement Reconstruction and Water & Sanitary Sewer Replacement. Crews broke ground the next morning on Crestline, one of the major arterials for AHNA.

The entire construction project will last at least nine months and includes the following streets:

- Crestline from Camp Bowie to Montgomery
- Frederick from Crestline to Lafayette
- Dexter from Clover to Sutter
- Sutter from Lafayette to Byers

Here are answers to some of the most pressing questions:

- Construction will take place from 7 a.m. until dark on weekdays, with some Saturday hours as necessary.
- Each phase will be completed before work starts on the next street. The work on Crestline is expected to take 90 days.
- Work will take place on one side of the street at a time, allowing drivers to access the opposite side of the road during off hours.
- There will be no interference with regularly scheduled trash pick-up.
- Driveway approaches will be widened to a minimum of 11 feet or matched if wider than that now. When they pour the new driveway approaches, it's anticipated that residents will be unable to use their driveways for approximately two weeks.
- Residents with sprinkler systems should mark sprinkler heads in the parkway (the area located between the street and sidewalk) so they can cap these off. Capping will allow you to use your sprinkler system except where the heads have been capped. The city will reattach the heads and replace any broken ones.
- Existing sidewalks will be retained, repaired and replaced as needed; new sidewalks will NOT be poured where sidewalks did not previously exist.
- Curbs will be replaced. The city will replace sod, but not other plants or groundcover located in the parkway. Plants less than three feet high will likely be removed. Workers will not disturb trees located within the parkway.
- While connecting the new water service, the city anticipates an interruption in water service during daytime hours, typically 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. They do not anticipate an interruption in the sewer service.



Crews breaking ground on Crestline as part of the 2007 Critical Capital Project - Part 3: Pavement Reconstruction and Water & Sanitary Sewer Replacement.

For questions regarding access, security or safety, call Dale Gatewood at 817.534.1743 or David Rolls at 817.392.8306 at Conatser Construction. For concerns after 4:30 p.m. or on weekends, call Conatser at 817.392.8100. The City of Fort Worth Project Manager is Gopal Sahu, 817.392.7949 or Gopal.Sahu@FortWorthGov.org.

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MICROCHIP TO THE RESCUE!

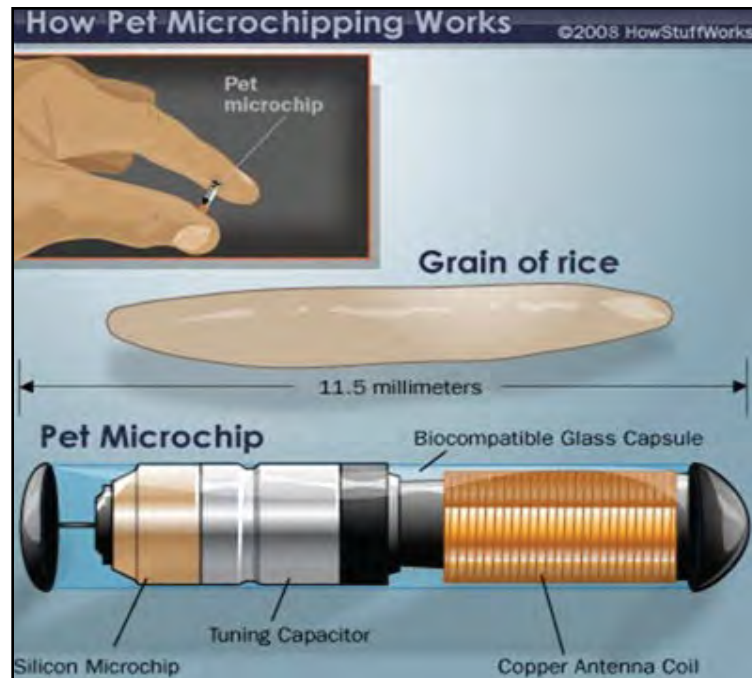
By Kelly Jo Nial, kjnial@earthlink.net

Countless pets are lost every day and frantic owners will do almost anything to get them back. Just in the last few months, I have been involved with three missing cats and two missing dogs. Searching for these lost and scared pets is heart wrenching for all involved. We all know that even the most responsible pet owner can lose track of their beloved friend as collars come off, identification tags get worn down, and some pets that simply can't wear a collar.

There's an easy solution: MICROCHIP! Animal shelters, humane societies, rescue organizations and veterinarians are equipped with universal scanners to detect microchips. Found pets can be taken to any of these places and scanned for a microchip. With this technology, your pet can be returned safely and efficiently to you and your family.

Microchips are approximately the size of a large grain rice encased in non-toxic biocompatible glass and are based on a passive Radio Frequency Identification technology. You and your pet won't even know it's there—that is, until you need it! The chip is injected into your pet during a procedure that is no different than a routine vaccination. The chip never expires and it is good for the life span of your pet.

How do you go about getting your pet microchipped? It's a two-step process; first the injection of the chip, then the registration of your contact information for the chip. It's important to complete both steps, which leads me to another story. We found an older dog was scampering down Camp Bowie Blvd one Saturday afternoon and she WAS microchipped, but unfortunately her owner neglected to register her. A neighbor was kind enough to take her and continue looking for her original owners or another home. Stories like these are rare—most of the time private citizens aren't willing to go through extensive efforts to find lost pets new homes. Most lost animals find themselves in extremely overcrowded shelters and have very slim chances of finding homes.



A microchip implant is an identifying integrated circuit placed under the skin of a dog, cat or other animal. The chips are no larger than a grain of rice and are based on a passive Radio Frequency Identification technology.

Need a low-cost option to microchip your pet? Try the Fort Worth Animal Care and Control: You can take your leashed dog or cat in a carrier to the Chuck Silcox Animal Care and Control Center, 4900 Martin Street, Fort Worth, 76119 between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, no appointment necessary. Microchipping, onsite registration, and a city pet license cost \$24. Bring proof of Rabies vaccination with you; if you do not have your pet vaccinated for rabies, they will do it for you free of charge. For additional information visit www.fortworthgov.org/animals or call 817-392-PAWS (7297).

SOPHIE'S JAILBREAK

By Beth Kaufmann

One of the aspects of our neighborhood that makes it such a wonderful place to live is the sense of caring and community we have. Neighbors look out for each other and help whenever they can. When Cole Luke's 6-year-old black lab Sophie jumped the fence one night last month, Cole and his wife handed out flyers and posted a notice on Craigslist.



Labrador Retriever Sophie posing with mom and snowman last month.

They realized finding her was a long shot. Sophie wasn't wearing her collar—she'd just had her monthly flea meds—and she hadn't been microchipped. Cole asked neighbor and AHNA volunteer Elizabeth Bartolomei for help, who in turn contacted our animal affairs extraordinaire, Kelly Jo Nial. Kelly Jo emailed Sophie's picture to more neighbors and contacts, including Citizens on Patrol and our Neighborhood Police Officer.

Meanwhile, Elliot, a high school student at Arlington Heights, found Sophie and took her to the vet next door to the high school. Cole swung by there to drop off a flyer the day after Sophie ran away and the nice woman at the desk recognized her picture. She said a student came by the previous day with the black lab. They weren't able to take Sophie in, but they got Elliot's contact information in case the owner came by. How lucky is that! Cole contacted Elliot immediately and learned he had taken Sophie to the Benbrook Animal Shelter that morning. When Cole called the shelter, they said someone had just dropped off a black lab. Hooray! Cole, of course, was ecstatic to get his girl back and wanted to thank all the friends and neighbors in Arlington Heights who helped get the word out about Sophie.

Here's the moral to our story: Know your neighbors! Join AHNA! Microchip your pet!

CENTRAL ARLINGTON HEIGHTS FLOOD STUDY UPDATE

By Sergio Yanes

Since the last update the City has made progress on their study exploring non-traditional engineering solutions to flooding in central Arlington Heights. On February 24th the City hosted its third stakeholder committee meeting comprised of residents of Arlington Heights to present and discuss flooding solutions. This meeting was followed by a public meeting on March 3rd to present results to the community as a whole.

Solving the problem is not simple. When the neighborhood was developed in the 1920s streams that ran through it were buried in large pipes, then homes were constructed over the pipes. Simply replacing the pipe would require tearing down houses.

The storm drain installed in the central portion of the neighborhood can handle about 1 inch of water per hour. As a point of reference, the storm in 2004 that gained video fame had an intensity of 2.2 inches per hour, about a 5 year storm. A 100 year storm, the City's design criteria, has an intensity of 3.89 inches per hour.

Previous studies found meeting the City's 100 year storm requirement would be extremely expensive. The goal of this study was to explore outside-the-box solutions including ones that don't mitigate the 100 year storm levels. Solutions presented included installing a new pipe through the neighborhood to the Trinity River, creating rain gardens or rain barrel systems, building detention ponds on commercial (non-residential lots), building large detention ponds at Stripling

Middle School and/or South Hi Mount Elementary, building detention ponds by tearing down a small number of homes (5-7 homes), or restoring the stream by removing either a medium number (15) or a large number (30) of homes.

In general, most solutions with minimal or no impact to residential property either met or fell short of the 2004 storm level. Only two options presented could meet the 100 year storm criteria: a new pipe to the Trinity or restoring the stream through acquisition of 30 houses. In both cases the solutions were expensive and had significant impacts on the neighborhood. Either option could be scaled down to meet the 2004 storm level by either a smaller pipe size or through acquisition of 15 houses.

As residents of Arlington Heights we have a hard decision to make. The purpose of the study is to not only find an affordable and feasible solution, but also one that is acceptable to the community. Everyone's perspective differs. Residents who live in the areas that flood the worst may accept an acquisition program if it means their house doesn't flood every year. What solution is acceptable to you?

As a next step the City will propose at least one option, maybe more, to City Council to advance further and study in greater detail. The presentation to City Council is anticipated in May and neighborhood feedback at the meeting is very important. Look for future meeting announcements.

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WHAT COULD BE MORE FUN THAN A CIRCUS AT THE FORT WORTH ZOO?

Arlington Heights resident Misty Brunette, Director of Development for The WARM Place

Bring the entire family to the ninth year of The WARM Place Benefit, Friday Night at the Zoo! There will be stilt-walkers, jugglers, magicians, and fun for all ages from 6:30-10:00pm on Friday, April 29 at the Fort Worth Zoo. In addition to a dinner of hot dogs, corn dogs and ultimate beef nachos, there will be a raffle, silent auction, big bid board, cash bar, and music by King Creole. Advance tickets are \$40 for adults and \$15 for children ages 3-12.

Proceeds benefit The WARM Place, a local grief support center for children ages 3½ to 18 and their families, as well as young adults ages 19 to 25, who have suffered a death loss. Your support of Friday Night at the Zoo provides funding to help children find hope and healing at The WARM Place.

Located in the hospital district, The WARM Place has provided grief support services at no charge for children and families since 1989. Each of these families is different in size, composition, and economic background, but they all share one important bond—the death of someone they love. Most of them have tried to bear their grief on their own. Yet losing a spouse, parent, sibling, child or friend is so intense and demanding, these families often need help to accept the loss and eventually move forward. They go to The WARM Place, suffering and wounded, yet hopeful they will find the help they need.

The WARM Place remains committed to a "companioning" approach in their work with grieving children, with the belief that

grief is a normal behavior in reaction to a significant death loss. As children work through their grief, they share their stories and hear the stories of others with similar losses. The sharing of stories allows them to incorporate the loss, not only in their heads, but also in their hearts—and that is where healing begins. The group support and caring environment provided by the trained volunteers and professional counselors have truly worked miracles for thousands of grieving children.

If you'd like to get involved with The WARM Place there are volunteer positions available. Current opportunities at The WARM Place include houseparent, group facilitator, facilitator for preschool group, and special event volunteer.

Register online for Friday Night at the Zoo, or get more information on the grief support programs or volunteering at The WARM Place by calling 817-870-2272 or visiting www.thewarmplace.org



NOTES FROM THE CLASSROOM

By Jason Sabotin with comments from Dave Marshall



Arlington Heights resident Meghan Sabotin (left) escorted the entire Indonesian group on a tour of TCU.

I recently had the honor of hosting a teacher from Bandung, Indonesia through the Fort Worth Sister Cities program. For two weeks in February, Arlington Heights High School (AHHS) teachers and students gave 15 Indonesian students and two teachers an international experience that would allow them to share their culture with Fort Worth students, learn about our education experience, and develop long-term relationships. The Sister Cities program is designed to prepare participants for a global marketplace while teaching them how to create a more peaceful environment.

Our Sister City students stayed with families of Arlington Heights students, and the two teachers stayed with teachers from AHHS. Dave Marshall's family hosted two of the students—this was old hat for them as they've hosted many exchange and Sister Cities students over the years, but it was the first time my wife and I have hosted through Sister Cities. Moreover, those two weeks were the longest that anyone has ever stayed with us!

Dave Marshall said the Indonesian students staying with them were wonderful guests, energetic and happy girls. They really enjoyed seeing snow for the very first time but didn't care much for the cold. They spent many evenings snuggled up to the fireplace doing what teenagers do...watching "American Idol".

In addition to absorbing the activities at AHHS, they took in all of the Fort Worth sights, including being honored at a City Council meeting where Mayor Moncrief gave them all a "high-five." On the way home to Indonesia, they stopped in LA to see Hollywood and go to Disneyland. A perfect way to cap off the trip! Dave said his family enjoyed having them and that it's nice to learn a little about others' customs and family traditions.

The Indonesian gentleman staying with us was Benny Amran and he teaches English as a foreign language. He wasn't as fluent as one might expect—his vocabulary was reasonably good, but we had to get used to speaking slowly, not loudly. I resorted to techniques I've learned through the years teaching English at AHHS to my English As A Second Language students—I used more basic vocabulary, I tried to keep my sentences simple, and I worked very hard to avoid idioms and expressions that only an American would know.

At Central Market one afternoon, the lady in the bakery asked, "How can I help ya?" Later, Benny asked me what "ya" meant. I explained that it was Texan for "you". I also explained "ya'll" and "howdy". I can only hope my teacher evaluation isn't based on this.

An even bigger culture shock for the travelers was the snow. Imagine taking a once in a lifetime trip halfway around the world to a place that's normally only moderately cool, and being hit with our coldest weather in a long time. None of them had ever seen actual snow before. They were all fascinated by it, but unfortunately, none of them had packed anything warm enough. Five days of school were cancelled during Benny's visit, so we had LOTS of quality time at home!

Benny's students in Indonesia attend school from 7 am until 1:30 pm and then have a couple hours of "mandatory" extracurricular time such as musical instruments, clubs, sports, games, etc. He commented that students at AHHS didn't seem to have much pride in their school, and I had to admit he was right. School spirit only exists at certain levels and at certain times, and it's something our principal is looking to improve. Benny was also taken back that students were seen kissing in the halls. He explained that was forbidden at his school, to which I could only comment that I wish it were forbidden at my school also. We usually just shoo the offending couple away, and I imagine they just go hide around the next corner.

In the end, though, Benny and I agreed that students are students no matter where they live. They like to shop, eat pizza, play games, listen to music, and be bored at museums. It was hard to talk about the state of education in our respective countries simply because extended and advanced conversation was difficult. It was much easier and less stressful to watch the Mavericks or the Super Bowl and talk about that instead, and we probably learned more about each other as people that way.

At the end of two weeks, we were sad to see him leave, though he was homesick for his own family. My dog Stela will miss him the most. Benny called her his best friend while he was with us, because she was SO excited to see him every day when we arrived home from school. We're all now friends on Facebook, so we can keep in touch from halfway around the world and 12 hours apart. I can look back on our time together and know that teachers are teachers no matter where they call home.



Pictured is Eliza Indri Hafsari and Kintan Permata Derose from Bandung, Indonesia.

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