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SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2011

A.H.N.A.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS & VIEWS

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

FORT WORTH'S MAYOR COMES BACK HOME

by Christina Patoski

Arlington Heights has produced its fair share of outstanding citizens over the years, but Betsy Cornelius Price is the first Fort Worth mayor it can claim. We thought it would be interesting to take a nostalgic trip down Memory Lane and follow her life's trajectory, beginning with her formative years on the West Side of Fort Worth.

Betsy Cornelius moved to Tremont Ave. in 1949, when she was two months old. The youngest of Elizabeth and Wayne Cornelius' four children, Betsy describes growing up in Arlington Heights as "idyllic". Sister Sharon was nine years older than Betsy, Margaret was four years older, and brother Butch was just twenty months her senior.

The neighborhood was loaded with school-age children. "On our block, there were five families with four kids each, and there were even more families that had two and three kids," explains Butch Cornelius. One of Betsy's earliest Tremont memories is "running up and down the street, playing with my brother and all the neighborhood boys — there were no girls my age to play with."

Marcus Smith, who grew up a few doors down from the Cornelius kids, remembers, "We were outside all the time, because there wasn't much on TV back then." Smith continues, "We pretty much stayed on our block, rode our bikes and go-karts everywhere and had water bomb fights." Most of the backyards weren't fenced and dogs ran free.

It was a different time, where kids "just walked in a neighbor's back door", recalls Smith, who still lives in Arlington Heights. "And there were always lots of kids hanging around the Cornelius house," he adds. "Mrs. Cornelius always had plenty of cookies." Betsy's older sister, Margaret, was, according to Smith, "a heartbreaker." "Margaret had lots of boys hanging around, and Betsy had a lot of her friends around," says Butch. "My friends



Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price stands in front of her childhood home on Tremont Ave. in Arlington Heights.
Photo courtesy of The City of Fort Worth.

would come around to see Margaret and her friends," he confesses. "There was a lot of flirting going on."

Betsy liked to ride horses, so much so she rode in the big downtown rodeo parade and in the rodeo's Grand Entry. She also liked to go hunting with her dad who taught her how to clean dove and gut a deer. "She was kind of a daddy's girl," says Kathryn Cornelius, Betsy's sister-in-law of 40+ years. "She's a lot like her dad, real outgoing," continues Kathryn. "She was always mixing and mingling with people, like Dad," confirms Butch.

Betsy made many friends as she went through South Hi Mount Elementary School, Stripling Junior High and Arlington Heights High School. "School came easy for Betsy," says brother Butch. "She always made good grades and she was always doing something." He chuckles as he recalls the time Betsy entered their dad's two bird dogs in a pet contest held at the nearby Thomas Place Community Center, "She put ribbons all over them and won a prize."

In high school, she was President of her homeroom and the Future



Letter from the President

by Christina Patoski

Welcome to your neighborhood association newsletter. Funded through membership dues and our advertisers, we publish every other month and mail newsletters to our members. Each September, a brigade of volunteers hand delivers a free newsletter to all 2,300 households in our association's boundaries.

We're officially registered with the City of Fort Worth as a voluntary neighborhood association. Our membership is open to anyone who lives in our neighborhood, including renters. We provide you with lots of interesting information about our community and can steer you in the right direction to solve many common neighborhood problems. We are not a property owners association. We have no covenants and we don't tell you what color to paint your house, or what kind of roof to put on your house.

The present incarnation of the association was established in 1999; the charter group started in the 1970s. In 2008, we were named Fort Worth's Neighborhood of the Year, and were a finalist in the National Neighborhood Awards.

Our website (www.arlingtonheightsna.com) and our eblast list (sign up at the website) keep us connected. Our monthly membership meetings are open to the public and feature a crime report from our Neighborhood Patrol Officer and guest speakers on engaging topics, including local history, gardening, and crime.

Our goal is to keep our neighborhood a great place to live. Part of that equation is being a good neighbor. Here are a few ideas of how to stay on friendly terms with the folks on your block.

- Get to know your neighbors — some blocks are so organized they share a master list of phone numbers, emails and license plates for everyone of the block. One block even has their own Facebook page. It helps reduce crime, too.
- Keep your lawn mowed and free of clutter — unkempt yards lower everyone's property values.
- Observe the city's garbage rules at www.fortworthgov.org/solidwaste/.
- Street parking is at a premium, so don't be a hog and park in front of your neighbor's house.
- Control your pets by confining your dogs and cats to your property, picking up their waste if you walk them, and don't allow your dog to bark incessantly, including when you're not home.
- There's no quicker way to make enemies than using power tools or playing loud music at inappropriate times.

Ernest Tubb said it best: "Be better to your neighbors, and you're gonna have better neighbors, doggone ya."

<p>Neighborhood Patrol Officer Ken Jacobs: 817-992-0187 (cell) kenneth.jacobs@fortworthgov.org</p>	<p>City Councilman Dennis Shingleton: 817-392-8807 district7@fortworthgov.org</p>
<p>Fort Worth Police non-emergency number: 817-335-4222</p>	<p>Code Compliance Officer Rosalind Kalton: 817-944-1796 rosalind.kalton@fortworthgov.org</p>

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 and include your name, address, phone, and e-mail address. Deadline for submissions is the 1st of each month. We reserve the right to refuse any submission deemed inappropriate to the newsletter and may 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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MAYOR COMES BACK HOME (continued from Page 1)

Homemakers of America, a member of Allied Youth and Young Citizens Forum and worked as a nurse's assistant. Her senior year she was chosen as one of the elite Who's Who and was a DAR finalist. Her leadership path was already well laid out.

Her favorite neighborhood haunts were the Bowie Theater and the 7th St. Theater, Joe Vigne's Barbeque, El Chico's Mexican Restaurant, Roy Pope's Grocery, and Rockyfeller's Hamburgers. Her first jobs were babysitting and working at Cornelius Motors, the family's used car business on the city's north side.

When she headed off to college in 1968, Betsy planned on becoming a vet, but ended up graduating with a B.S. in Biology, marrying her Heights classmate, Tom Price, and having three children. Seventeen years of PTA followed, along with Junior League, Sunday school, Camp Fire Girls, FWPD's Bike Officers Citizens Support Club and serving as Vice President of the Red Cross.

In the late 1980s, she launched her own car title and licensing company from her father's car business and got involved in title lending reform at the state level. Betsy was elected the Tarrant County Tax Assessor, her first bid for public office, in 2000. During her ten-year tenure there, she helped the Tax Assessor's office win national and statewide awards for efficiency, innovation and performance.

Somewhere along the way, Betsy took up long-distance bicycling with husband Tom, a passion that continues today. She and Tom have ridden in numerous "Hotter'N Hell Hundred" rides and Bikeiowa. "She is tough," attests John Morris, an Arlington Heights attorney who rode along the Trinity River with the Prices this summer during the height of the heat.

What single word best describes Mayor Price? "Compassionate", says sister-in-law Kathryn. "And she's very smart, like her mother."

Betsy says she never thought about running for mayor, until she was asked by several politicians, including U.S. Representative Kay Granger, Fort Worth's first female mayor. In June, Betsy was elected Fort Worth's 44th mayor in a run-off election with Jim Lane, a fellow Arlington Heights High School graduate.

Does Mayor Price think her Arlington Heights upbringing had an effect on where she is today? "Sure! It was a classic neighborhood: open, stable, with hardworking, friendly people. All the parents knew all the kids, so if you got into trouble, by the time your parents came home, they already knew about it and you'd be grounded."

Life on Tremont Ave. in the 1950s was a lot like Beaver Cleaver's world; vestiges of it still remain. In 2007, the block of Tremont that Mayor Price grew up on was designated a Local Historic District by the City of Fort Worth, the only block so named in Arlington Heights. Mayor Price's reaction? "I am thrilled. It's a great neighborhood."

Mayor Betsy Price will be the honored guest speaker at Arlington Heights Neighborhood Association's meeting on Monday September 19 at 6:30 p.m. at Arlington Heights United Methodist Church, 4200 Camp Bowie Blvd.



Betsy Cornelius Price's leadership path was already laid out at Arlington Heights High School where she was chosen for Who's Who, Class of 1968. Photo courtesy of Arlington Heights High School Yellow Jacket 1968 Yearbook

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NEIGHBORHOOD BRIEFS

Property crime is on the rise throughout the city. On Thursday September 22, you'll have a chance to hear what FWPD is doing about it and talk to police officers and their commanders. The West Division **Police Community Forum** runs from 7 p.m. until 8 p.m. at St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, 2700 McPherson...Free admission on Saturday September 24 to all 5 Cultural District museums, plus the Community Arts Center, Botanic Gardens, Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT) and Log Cabin Village, courtesy of the annual **Day in the District**. Family-friendly special events are scheduled throughout the day, beginning at 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. More info at www.fwdayinthedistrict.org...Grammy-award winner Kirk Whalum, Kermit Ruffins, Lucero, Dawes, Marcia Ball, and the Meat Puppets headline this year's **Fort Worth Music Festival**, formerly known as Jazz By The Boulevard. The two-day event starts Friday September 30 and will feature 20 local and national bands at Will Rogers Memorial Center. Get the full lineup and tickets at www.fwfest.com... Don't miss **Just Between Friends**, the largest children's and maternity consignment sales in Texas, September 26 through October 1 at Will Rogers Memorial Center Exhibit Hall. Visit <http://swfortworth.jbfsale.com> for more information . . . **Thomas Place Community Center** offers adult, senior and youth classes including yoga, kung fu, book camp, personal training, ballet, hip hop dance and much more. Call 817-735-1751 for more information.



Artist David Hickman works on his wind-activated outdoor sculpture to be permanently installed on the west grounds of Thomas Place Community Center. The sculpture is funded through the Community ID: Public Art in Neighborhoods program. Hickman holds one of the quills that will be placed atop a steel structure to create a kinetic element representative of a quill pen that stands more than 12 feet off the ground.

CAMP BOWIE BLVD. PHOTOS AND STORIES WANTED

Local historian Juliet George is the author of the book, "Fort Worth's Arlington Heights", published in 2010 by Arcadia Publishing. A native and life-long resident of Arlington Heights, she is currently working on a new book about the

commercial history of the Camp Bowie Boulevard corridor, not the military camp. If you have any stories or old photos of Camp Bowie Blvd., please contact her at 817-732-4675 or e-mail her at julietwells@sbcglobal.net.

AMERICA'S NIGHT OUT AGAINST CRIME



This year's National Night Out will take place on Tuesday October 4 at 6:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. at Thomas Place Community Center, 4237 Lafayette.

Mark Tuesday October 4 on your calendar for the best neighborhood celebration of the year. National Night Out (NNO), is kid and dog friendly and starts at 6:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. at Thomas Place Community Center, 4237 Lafayette. Free food and drinks, a D.J., and a bounce house for the kids, how much free fun do you want to have? A project of the COPS, the event is a great way to meet your neighbors and to learn about crime from the COPS.

Last year, 37 million people in 15,110 communities nationwide participated in National Night Out celebrations. This is the 28th year of the annual crime prevention event which is sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch. This year's celebration is expected to be the largest one ever.

MAYOR PRICE TO SPEAK AT SEPTEMBER MEETING

Mayor Betsy Price is the guest speaker at the AHNA meeting on Monday September 19 at 6:30 p.m. at Arlington Heights United Methodist Church, 4200 Camp Bowie, enter via the Hillcrest St. door. Mayor Price grew up in Arlington Heights (see cover story of this issue) and will talk about her experiences in the neighborhood and how they affected her life's journey. Mayor Price has been our guest speaker on two previous occasions when she was the Tarrant County Tax Assessor. This meeting is open to the public; you do not need to be a member to attend.

CHIEF OF POLICE JEFF HALSTEAD OCTOBER SPEAKER

We are delighted to announce that Police Chief Jeff Halstead is the guest speaker at the Monday October 17 meeting of AHNA. He is the final speaker in AHNA's year-long crime initiative.

Property crime is still a big problem in Arlington Heights, especially daytime home burglaries and overnight car break-ins. Chief Halstead, who came to Fort Worth in 2008, will talk to us about crime throughout the city, as well as police staffing and crime reporting procedures. Community partnerships and communication with the community are important priorities for Chief Halstead. Born in Alabama, he was raised in Florida and served in Phoenix law enforcement for 20 years.

We will also hold elections for the 2012 AHNA officers. You must be a regular member and current on your dues to vote.

THANKSGIVING POT LUCK DINNER

Monday November 17 is our annual Thanksgiving Pot Luck Dinner, so we always start early, at 6:00 p.m. rather than the usual 6:30 p.m., to give everyone time to enjoy the festivities.

The turkey, stuffing, and gravy are all generously donated by Central Market (thank you, CM!) and AHNA and the COPS provide coffee, tea, and water. Our members bring their favorite holiday sides — a perfect time to share your cooking skills and favorite recipes. You can bring whatever you want, but you don't have to bring anything except yourself, your spouse, family and friends, even if they aren't members.

This year's entertainment will be the fantastic Arlington Heights High School Choir.

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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SEPTEMBER • OCTOBER 2011 Membership Form



AHNA Meeting Schedule

Monday, September 19, 2011

Monday, October 17, 2011

Monday, November 15, 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

UNRESTRICTED DONATIONS

Advertising \$3,020.00
Business memberships \$125.00
Individual memberships \$2,255.00
Unrestricted donations \$25.00
Interest Income \$31.28

TOTAL DONATIONS \$5,906.28

UNRESTRICTED EXPENDITURES

League of Neighborhoods \$35.00
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Postage \$375.30
Newsletter \$1,700.75
Meeting Expense \$346.40
Web \$166.80
Yard of the Month \$150.00

TOTAL UNRESTRICTED EXPENDITURES \$2,943.91

RESTRICTED DONATIONS EXPENDITURES

Feral Cats \$270.00
National Night Out \$427.86

TOTAL RESTRICTED EXPENDITURES \$742.86

TOTAL EXPENDITURES \$3,686.77

RESTRICTED CASH BALANCE AS OF 08/31/11 \$5,453.59

RESTRICTED DONATIONS

Feral Cats \$470.00
Western Ave. Project \$4,983.59

TOTAL RESTRICTED DONATIONS \$5,453.59

UNRESTRICTED CASH BALANCE AS OF 08/31/11. \$3,078.32

TOTAL CASH BALANCE AS OF 08/31/11 \$8,531.58

AUGUST YARD OF THE MONTH



Kelly and Dabney Poorter at 4125 El Campo were selected as the August 2011 Yard of the Month. They received a \$25 gift certificate to Archie's Gardenland.

by Gloria (Glo) Thompson

The AHNA Yard of the Month for August is 4125 El Campo. Homeowners Kelly and Dabney Poorter have done an excellent job of keeping their yard looking good, despite the record August temperatures.

Kelly is a native Texan, hailing from San Antonio. Dabney was born in Oklahoma City, but came to Texas when she was in the 6th grade. They have a daughter, Emma, who is 15 months old. Both Kelly and Dabney earned Bachelor of Science degrees in kinesiology from Westmont College in Santa Barbara, California. In fact, they met playing basketball in college. In 2007, they returned to Texas, where Dabney earned her nursing degree from T.C.U.

Dabney works in the neonatal unit at Cook Children's Hospital as a registered nurse. She also teaches fitness classes for adults and a fitness boot camp for school-age children. Kelly is in medical equipment sales with DuPuy Orthopaedics.

Dabney credits her interest in gardening to her mother and grandmother. She said her parents always had their children helping them as they gardened. Dabney also took a health class in college where part of the curriculum was to develop a community garden, working with the local Mental Health Mental Retardation organization and a local elementary school, to grow vegetables

for the community. She thinks the experience helped foster her interest in gardening.

Dabney and Kelly do all of their own gardening, except for mowing their lawn. Dabney noted that they don't have a theme to their gardening, but that they use both annuals and perennials and try to place them carefully. Most of their plants come from Calloway's and Lowe's. Currently, they have caladiums, potato vines, marigolds, hydrangeas, KnockOut roses and nandina in their yard. Dabney likes color in the yard and plans to add more annuals for color. They recently put in their own sprinkler system.

Kelly uses mulch from Calloway's and adds acid to the soil as needed. They look forward to using the \$25 AHNA Yard of the Month gift certificate from Archie's Gardenland soon.

What Dabney likes best about gardening: "Being outdoors and seeing the colors and knowing that this is a special time that Kelly and I can share together to create beauty in our yard."

What Dabney likes least about gardening: "The cost! It can be expensive."

Dabney's gardening tip for beginners: "Start with perennials and add annuals later."

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NEIGHBORHOOD FLOODING SOLUTIONS TO BE PRESENTED AT UPCOMING MEETING

Sections of Arlington Heights experience flooding after big rains. Thanks to local TV news crews, everyone knows that Hulen St. at Bryce Ave., south of Walgreen's, is one of the first to flood, sending water gushing southward into our neighborhood on Western Ave., Carleton Ave. and Ashland Ave. towards El Campo Ave.

Although no one has been injured to date, there have been plenty of flooded cars. Many neighborhood old-timers on Western, Carleton, and Ashland have built their own self-styled perimeter barriers around their properties to divert the flood waters away from their houses. Damage to structures has, for the most part, been confined to garages and outbuildings built on slab foundations.

The last major neighborhood rain event was on June 28, 2004. It was fortuitously recorded on videotape and subsequently presented at a City Council meeting. The video was alarming enough for the council to create a Storm Water Utility to deal with the city's \$1 billion+ of flooding issues. In 2005, a nominal monthly Storm Water Utility Fee was tacked on to everyone's water bills. Since then, enough money has accrued in the fund to allow the city to tackle the top two problem areas, central Arlington Heights and the Forest Park/Berry area.

A year ago, a Stakeholders Committee, made up of interested neighborhood residents, was convened by the city to work together to find mutually acceptable, effective and affordable solutions to the flooding problems on Western, Carleton, Ashland and nearby streets. The city hired an experienced outside consultant, Burton Johnson, to facilitate the process. The Committee met three times over the winter.

At the very first meeting, the solution of tearing down houses to solve the flooding problem became an insurmountably contentious issue among a number of the stakeholders. At the conclusion of the committee meetings, city staff and the consultant showed a power point presentation of various flood mitigation options with price tags at a public meeting held on March 3. Thirty property owners, only a few of who have experienced flooding, attended the meeting. By the time the group was asked to vote on their solution preferences, fifteen people were left to cast votes. Go to www.arlingtonheightsna.com and www.fortworthgov.org/tpw/stormwater/ for links to view the powerpoint and voting results.

The issue continues to be finding a solution that is mutually acceptable, effective and affordable to the city and the affected property owners. There are a number of ways to stop the flooding, but they are prohibitively expensive. Some of the more affordable solutions, like a "voluntary buyout program" that would demolish between 7 and 35 homes to create permanent "greenway detention", are not acceptable to many of the property owners on Western, Carleton and Ashland. Approximately 100 people on those streets sent letters of opposition to tear-downs and voluntary buyouts to the city this summer.

City staff will make their final flood solution recommendations to the City Council later this fall. Prior to that, they will hold a final public meeting to present their proposed recommendations to Arlington Heights residents on Thursday October 13 at 6:30 p.m. at Arlington Heights United Methodist Church, 4200 Camp Bowie. If you live in the Western/Carleton/Ashland area, make every effort to attend. Your silence will be counted as being in favor of whatever is proposed.

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IS IT A FOUNTAIN, A GEYSER, OR OLD FAITHFUL?

by Gloria (Glo) Thompson

Answer: None of the above. It's an Arlington Heights water main.

It all started at 8:50 a.m. on Tuesday, July 12, 2011. At first, it was just a rippling of water, bubbling up on Lafayette Avenue, just east of the corner at Frederick. I dialed the Fort Worth Water Department and told the woman answering the phone that it appeared a water main was broken.

At 9:16 a.m., I called again and reported that it had turned into a geyser shooting water more than 50 feet in the air (think "Old Faithful" in Yellowstone National Park) and there was now a large hole where the asphalt had given way to the spewing water. The yard at the corner of Frederick and Lafayette was rapidly turning into a rain forest. The gentleman I was talking to seemed genuinely concerned and said he would get someone out as quickly as possible.

At 10:12 a.m., a pick-up truck from Fort Worth Transportation/Public Works (TPW) arrives. A man gets out and begins shuffling his feet through the mucky water at the Lafayette/Frederick intersection looking for the shut-off valve – to no avail. He then tries a metal detector – again no shut-off valve. He returns to his truck and drives off.

At 11:30 a.m., the TPW pick-up truck again shows up. Again, a man gets out and this time uses a shovel – no luck again. He tries the metal detector for a second time – still no shut-off valve. He calls someone by phone and leaves again.

It's now 11:57 a.m. and two heavy-duty TPW trucks arrive, as does the man in the pick-up truck. The geyser continues unabated.

At 12:00 p.m., another large TPW truck comes on the scene, complete with trench digging apparatus. The first man once again uses the metal detector, as all stand and watch him. Still no shut-off valve.



A broken water main produced a geyser several stories high on Lafayette Avenue. Photo by Gloria Thompson

They all then move around the corner where the geyser is still spewing 50 feet in the air and try the metal detector again. Aha! They find the shut-off valve and the geyser quickly descends into the ground and disappears.

A city truck drives slowly down the street announcing that water will be turned off for 3-4 hours while the water main is repaired.

By 3 p.m., all is well. The main is repaired and the water is turned on again to our homes.

LESSONS LEARNED:

1. Old water mains need regular preventive maintenance or eventually need to be replaced.
2. Extremely hot weather and no rain can negatively affect water mains, especially in older neighborhoods.
3. When a shut-off valve is moved or relocated, a current map showing those changes should be available by computer or by a phone call to someone in the appropriate department.

To have so many gallons of water gushing more than 50 feet in the air for three hours is astonishing, especially given how much we are asked to refrain from using too much water to keep our plants, trees, and yards alive.

With extreme drought conditions in much of the country and especially in Texas, not to mention the huge amount of water that is used each day for gas drilling, we all need to report immediately any water main problems or other water issues. To call the Water Department, dial 817-392-4477. If it's after business hours, call 911.

SEPTEMBER YARD OF THE MONTH

by Gloria (Glo) Thompson

September brings hints of cooler weather, early sunsets, and crisp autumn days. Our September Yard of the Month belongs to homeowners Harry and Dee Spring at 4206 Birchman.

Both Harry and Dee are native Texans. Dee is originally from Houston, and Harry is a Fort Worth local. They have four grown children and six grandchildren. Harry works in Washington, DC, where he owns his own business and Dee is a contract writer for special events at the Bass Performance Hall.

Dee believes a garden should be comforting—a place for restoration. "Many things in life change, but a garden brings new life and new hope."

Dee credits her interest in gardening to both her mother and grandmother who were avid gardeners. She says that her grandmother had arbors of camellias where Dee would spend much time enjoying the colors and beauty of the flowers.

It's the colors of the garden that really draw Dee's eye. "I have an Evelyn rose bush that was a gift from my daughter for Mother's Day several years ago. It is truly very beautiful and so resilient. It reminds me how enduring plants and flowers are and how they take whatever comes at them and still bounce back, still beautiful," Dee says. "They are very comforting and we learn from them."

Other beauties on display are hydrangeas, pentas and roses. Dee plans to add more hydrangeas and ferns of various kinds. Plants are typically purchased from Archie's Gardenland or Calloway's.

In addition to mulching twice a year, Dee uses Scott's fertilizer to keep her yard healthy. She also admits that although the soil has not been tested, they add compost regularly.

When asked about garden pests, Dee says grubs are the biggest problem, but they are under control thanks to a professional company which uses products that are safe for the environment.

What Dee likes best about gardening: "I love seeing how plants respond to being tenderly cared for and seeing the new shoots that emerge."

What Dee likes least about gardening: "Trying to keep



Summer landscape color is plentiful in Dee and Harry Spring's yard, thanks to their mature crepe myrtles which thrive in even the most brutal temperatures.

everything watered is difficult."

Dee's gardening tip for beginners: "Be consistent with your care and attention. Be there for your flowers and plants as you are for people and cherish their growth. They are a gift from God to us."



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NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME TIPS

Daytime home burglaries and vehicle break-ins continue to be the most reported crimes in Arlington Heights. AHNA Citizens on Patrol offer these simple crime prevention tips:

- If you see anything suspicious, call 911, even if it's not a life-threatening emergency. Trust your instincts and report anything unusual. Recently, observant neighbors in two different parts of our neighborhood called 911 in time enough for police to catch daytime burglars inside the homes they were burglarizing.
- Remove everything from your vehicle, not just your valuables. Thieves "go shopping" in our neighborhood because so many people leave things in their cars overnight. Even though there is nothing of value in your gym bag, the burglar doesn't know until he breaks your window and takes the bag.

- Keep your porch light on and property well-lit all night long. Thieves look for opportunities to work in the dark.
- Trim the shrubbery around your windows and home to reduce cover for burglars.
- Leave inside lights on when you go out. If you are going to be away for a length of time, connect some lamps, radio and television to automatic timers.
- Don't allow mail, newspapers or flyers to accumulate on your porch while you are away. Arrange with the Post Office to hold your mail, or arrange for someone to pick your mail up.
- Get on the email list to receive the daily neighborhood crime report from our Neighborhood Patrol Officer (NPO) Ken Jacobs. Email him at kenneth.jacobs@fortworthgov.org.

BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY

A few reminders to make our neighborhood school zones safe:

- Hands off cell phones in school zones. Using a cell phone while driving in a school zone is a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of up to \$200. Cell phones can be used only with a hands-free device, in a stopped vehicle or to place a call to emergency authorities.
- Slow down and expect delays — especially the first several weeks of school.
- Every passenger in the vehicle must wear a seatbelt—no matter what age.
- If your child walks home on their own from school, make sure they do it in pairs or groups. Never allow your child to walk

home alone. Also, make sure that your child always takes the same path or route home. Make sure to teach your children about stranger danger.

- Drivers pay attention. When you're near a school, watch for school buses and be prepared to stop at the appropriate time and place when a bus is loading or unloading children.
- Remember, it's football season, so if you allow your dog to relieve himself, please avoid the football field and always pick up after your pet.
- Report school-age children out in the neighborhood during school hours by calling 911. Let the police check them out.

CITIZENS ON PATROL NEED NEW MEMBERS

The Citizens On Patrol (COP) program reduces crime in our neighborhood by providing a safe, secure environment through awareness and cooperation between citizens and police officers. COPS are required to patrol the neighborhood one hour a month

and attend a monthly COP meeting. To join the Arlington Heights group, please contact COP Captain Jan Bourne at 817-737-6019 or janbourne@rocketmail.com or NPO Ken Jacobs at 817-992-0187 or Kenneth.Jacobs@fortworthgov.org.

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HAPPY HOUR EVENT TO HONOR NEW CITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

by Makenzie Carpenter

Join us for happy hour and meet your new City Council representative, Dennis Shingleton, on Tuesday, September 27 at 5:30 p.m. at Lucile's, 4700 Camp Bowie Boulevard.

Shingleton, a retired U.S. Army colonel, took office in July and is currently Senior Associate Dean for Finance and Administration at the University of North Texas Health Science Center's Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Shingleton says he's ready to move forward on resolutions to the flooding issues in central Arlington Heights. He is also working with fellow council members to devise a plan to offset the cost of the new Western Heritage parking garage, north of the Museum of Science and History. They are considering setting parking fees based on length of time rather than a flat fee. Shingleton will also reexamine the parking permit program on streets where street parking has become excessive.

A citywide issue facing Arlington Heights residents is City Council redistricting. According to the most recent census data, City Council District 7 has experienced a dramatic increase in population since 2000, up nearly 60 percent. This area encompasses the Cultural District to the shores of Eagle Mountain

Lake, including Como and Arlington Heights neighborhoods. As a result of this growth, residents are being asked to provide feedback via the city's website (www.fortworthgov.org) on whether there should be an increase in the number of city council districts. Districts are established to provide the best representation for Fort Worth residents. Ideally, a city council district should be large enough to promote efficient government, yet small enough to provide effective representation. Feedback is due to the City Secretary by September 30. The city will make its determination on the number of districts on November 1.

Shingleton became involved in city government as a neighborhood leader in 1999 when he fought against the annexation of Lake Country Estates by the city of Fort Worth. His leadership abilities caught the eye of then-Councilman Jeff Wentworth who appointed Shingleton to the city's Planning Commission. Shingleton has also served on the Fort Worth Building Standards Commission and the Fort Worth Mobility and Air Quality Committee. He has chaired Let's Talk Fort Worth and the Montgomery Street Advisory Committee.

Shingleton and his wife, Cindy, have lived in Fort Worth for more than 23 years. They have three children and six grandchildren.

BLOCK BY BLOCK NEIGHBORHOOD RE-ZONING

by Makenzie Carpenter

Nearly 700 property owners in Arlington Heights have successfully re-zoned their homes from two-family/duplex zoning to single-family zoning through a petition process, filed on a block by block basis. It's part of an 11-year citywide initiative to bring neighborhood zoning into alignment with what's actually on the ground. For instance, many parts of the city, including Arlington Heights, are zoned B-Two Family or C-Medium Density, even though single-family homes predominate.

Re-zoning a block to A5-Single Family insures that all new construction on that block will be single family. This initiative is not an attempt to reduce our existing two-family residences. All current duplexes and apartments are grandfathered in, as long as they're not vacant for more than two years, so that those property owners have certainty that they, too, can remodel and maintain their investments.

Arlington Heights property owners have been working with the city of Fort Worth since 2006 to re-zone sections of our neighborhood using the block-by-block petition-based process. Individual properties cannot be re-zoned by themselves. To activate this process, the city requires that the re-zoning is consistent with the city's long-range Comprehensive Plan. Also, petition signatures are required from property owners representing a minimum of 50 percent or more of the parcels to be re-zoned and a minimum of 50 percent or more of the land area to be re-zoned.

There is no deadline for these petitions, and each block is considered individually. If you are interested in finding out about the current zoning on your block or the process of re-zoning, please contact Dave Marshall, AHNA Zoning Committee Chair, at 817-738-6815 or zoning@arlingtonheightsna.com.



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U of N. Texas Health Science Center, 3500 Camp Bowie

SOCIAL SERVICES

New Day Services for Children & Family, 3605 El Campo
Tarrant NET, 3605 El Campo Ave.

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John R. Morris
Attorney at Law
1020 Summit Avenue
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