



A.H.N.A.

# ARLINGTON HEIGHTS

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2013

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS & VIEWS

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

## NEIGHBORS WHO ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

by Christina Patoski

When Hannah Akin moved to Arlington Heights a year ago, she started looking for a place to work with other people on a community garden. As a registered and licensed dietician, Hannah is passionate about food and gardening. "I'm interested in the process of growing food and preparing meals from it," Hannah says.

During her undergraduate studies in Dietetics at TCU, Hannah worked at Thomas Place Community Center in their after-school health education program. It had been several years since Hannah had visited the center, but this spring she discovered the raised bed garden plots that had gone fallow there. It was a light bulb moment. At the end of the summer, Hannah approached Karen Stuhmer, director of the community center, about doing something with them plots. "Karen said 'go for it,'" according to Hannah, so she was off and running.

Enlisting her husband and a few of her neighbors, Hannah and company rolled up their sleeves, got out their shovels and started weeding one Saturday in October. "We added mulch and fertilizer to enrich the soil for new growings," Hannah explains.

On top of three of the beds, the group built cage container towers, a Japanese planting method of self-composting. "We put in green and brown plant matter, like grass, leaves and twigs, but no food," says Hannah. Around the towers, they planted cabbage, kale, brussel sprouts, broccoli, bok choy, sage, spinach, basil, and a few pansies thrown in for color.

For the other three beds, they are using a permaculture technique to prepare them for winter crops in January. "We're creating an environment like a forest floor," Hannah explains. "We put down a layer of brown paper sacks, added a layer of compost on top of that, and then a layer of soil." She waters it as needed to keep it from drying out.

Eventually, Hannah plans for the centermost bed to become a kitchen herb garden, available to all neighbors. "My goal is to bring awareness of the health benefits of eating a variety of fruits and vegetables every



*Hannah Akin is leading the charge to develop the gardens at Thomas Place Community Center. She's especially interested in creating edible gardens that will serve as hands-on teaching tools to encourage more plant-based eating habits.*

day," says Hannah who says trying food straight from garden makes a difference. "Long term, I'd like to address a way for people to try new produce they've never had before, like lavender." Hannah envisions working with the Thomas Place after-school kids to make sachets, bath salts, and even tea.

"People are very connected to their food, both positively and negatively," Hannah points out. "Food is critical in the wellness of our bodies, but it can be harmful to our health when consumed improperly, like consuming too much of it, or too much saturated fat."

Long term, Hannah wants to look at the entire Thomas Place property, not just on the west side of the building. Nearby neighbors Joel and Anna McElhany have signed on to help. Joel is the Senior Landscape Architect with the City of Fort Worth's Parks and Community Services and his wife is a gifted gardener. "We're looking at what's feasible and what's not," explains Hannah who says they will start putting identifiers

*(Continued on Page 10)*



## AHNA EXECUTIVE BOARD

### President

Christina Patoski  
president@arlingtonheightsna.com  
817-738-0330

### Vice President

Kelly Jo Nial  
vicepresident@arlingtonheightsna.com  
817-798-0349

### Secretary

Pat McCready  
secretary@arlingtonheightsna.com  
214-235-4610

### Treasurer

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### Directors at Large

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817-229-9676

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tidwell1@charter.net

Sergio Yanes  
s\_yanes@hotmail.com  
817-343-1018

## AHNA COMMITTEES

### Zoning/Board of Adjustment

Richard Chowning  
zoning@arlingtonheightsna.com  
817-732-0586

### Neighborhood Animal Concerns

Kelly Jo Nial  
vicepresident@arlingtonheightsna.com  
817-798-0349

### Citizens on Patrol

Jan Bourne  
jan\_bourne@rocketmail.com  
817-737-6019

### New Neighbor Welcome Bags

Jim Gentry  
jg76107@gmail.com  
512-450-4434

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

# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Christina Patoski

Never in a million years did I ever think I would someday become a neighborhood leader. It was nothing I ever aspired to be. I was never a joiner, never got involved in organizations or clubs. But when I turned 50, something changed. I registered to vote and started voting again, something I had neglected to do for most of my adult life, partly out of being disillusioned with the whole political process.

It was 1999 when my next door neighbor, Lloyd Parks, gave me a flier about a meeting to organize our neighborhood. I was only vaguely interested in it, but I respected Lloyd so much that I went to the meeting. I realized that I had never done much volunteering and thought maybe it was now time to give back. My mother had just died suddenly a few months before and I was still feeling oddly untethered from her unexpected departure.

At that first meeting, we worked on drafting a set of bylaws and decided to meet again to elect officers. I wasn't ready to jump in that deeply, but I stayed involved and kept coming to the meetings. Through zoning cases that came up in our neighborhood I became interested in learning about local civics. I got worked up when I saw things that were happening that I thought weren't right. I endeavored to learn the rules of engagement, follow them and try to make the system work for what I thought was fair and just. I ended up getting a 10 year-plus education in city planning and all the processes that go into it. I learned how to negotiate through some pretty thorny situations.

Before I step down from being the AHNA President, I want to encourage you to get involved in the community. That necessarily doesn't mean joining the association and coming to meetings, though it is certainly worthwhile. Find a way that you're comfortable with to connect with your neighbors. You truly get what you put into it. It all comes back to you and then some. Look for no better examples than the three neighbors profiled in the cover story of this newsletter.

I want to recognize all the talented people I've worked with over the years through AHNA, especially the Executive Board that is made up of a very intelligent and talented group of individuals who all have the neighborhood in their hearts. Even though we can survive in isolation, we really thrive working in concert with others because we are all essentially social creatures. Reach out and you will almost certainly feel immeasurably connected.

### Neighborhood Patrol Officer

Tom McNutt

817-992-0187

thomas.mcnutt@fortworthtexas.gov

### Fort Worth City Councilman

Dennis Shingleton

817-392-8807

district7@fortworthtexas.gov

### Fort Worth Police

non-emergency

number

817-335-4222

### Code Compliance Officer

Cecilia Bell

817-944-8256

cecilia.bell@fortworthtexas.gov

## ADVERTISING RATES

Current circulation is 400 households bi-monthly

Business card: \$25    1/4 Page: \$50

1/2 Page: \$100    Full Page: \$200

Call 817-738-0330 or email newsletter@arlingtonheightsna.com

# THANKSGIVING POT LUCK

This year marks the 15th year AHNA is celebrating Thanksgiving with a neighborhood pot luck dinner. Always held on the third Monday of November, this year's event on Monday November 18 will include special entertainment by the Bell Choir of Arlington Heights United Methodist Church which is celebrating its 90th anniversary.

Dinner starts early at 6:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome! We encourage you to bring your neighbors, friends and family for this wonderful event. Central Market is generously providing the delicious turkey, stuffing and gravy. AHNA will provide the drinks. We're depending on you to bring a dish to fill out the menu.

This year, we're requesting that you write out the recipes for the home-cooked dishes you bring, so we can compile and e-share them on the Arlington Heights Neighborhood Association website.

## NO MEETING IN DECEMBER

There will be no AHNA meeting in December due to crowded holiday calendars. We will resume the regular meeting schedule on the third Monday of every month with a meeting on Monday January 20, 2014.

## NEW AHNA OFFICERS

The 2014 Officers and Executive Board for Arlington Heights Neighborhood Association were elected by majority vote at the membership meeting on October 21, 2013. Jessica Redman was voted in as the new President, with Kelly Jo Nial as Vice-President. Also elected were Christina Patoski as Secretary and Dave Marshall as Treasurer. At Large Executive Board members are Lisa Bashore, Paul Hooper, Pat McCready, Renee, Tidwell, Sergio Yanes. The new officers and board members will serve for one year terms, beginning January 1, 2014.



### AHNA Meeting Schedule

Monday November 18, 2013

No Meeting in December

Monday January 20, 2014

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

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

*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 west.*

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

Please mail annual dues (\$15 for household, \$25 for business) to:  
AHNA, PO Box 470692, Fort Worth, TX 76147-0692

## AHNA FINANCIAL REPORT

BALANCE AS OF 1/1/2013 ..... \$8,645.00

### UNRESTRICTED DONATIONS

Advertising ..... \$3,025.00  
Business Memberships ..... \$125.00  
Individual Memberships ..... \$1,305.00  
Interest Income ..... \$7.14  
Fire Hall 18 90th Anniv. Celebration. . . \$1,780.00  
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED DONATIONS .... \$6,242.14

### RESTRICTED DONATIONS

Hillcrest Fire Fund ..... \$270.00  
Feral Cats. .... \$25.00  
TOTAL RESTRICTED DONATIONS ..... \$295.00

TOTAL DONATIONS ..... \$6,537.14

### UNRESTRICTED EXPENDITURES

Newsletter ..... \$1,704.22  
Office ..... \$187.78  
Postage ..... \$198.51  
Yard of the Month ..... \$200.00  
Meeting Expenses ..... \$804.92  
Website ..... \$278.65  
Fire Hall 18 90th Anniv. Celebration. . . \$2,041.21  
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED EXPENDITURES .. \$5,415.29

### RESTRICTED EXPENDITURES

Hillcrest Fire Fund ..... \$270.00  
Feral Cats. .... \$60.00  
TOTAL RESTRICTED EXPENDITURES ..... \$360.00

TOTAL EXPENDITURES ..... \$5,775.29

### RESTRICTED CASH BALANCE

Hillcrest Fire Fund ..... \$0  
Feral Cats. .... \$303.83  
National Night Out ..... \$0  
Western Avenue Project ..... \$4,928.92  
TOTAL RESTRICTED CASH BALANCE. .... \$5,232.75

UNRESTRICTED CASH BALANCE AS OF 10/31/2013 ..... \$4,353.01

TOTAL CASH BALANCE AS OF 10/31/13 ..... \$9,585.76



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# NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2013 BIG SUCCESS

Arlington Heights Citizens on Patrol extend their thanks and deep appreciation to all of the volunteers and donors to their 2013 National Night Out Celebration Against Crime on Tuesday October 1. The party was a great success and enjoyed by hundreds of our neighbors and their pets.

## FOOD & BEVERAGES

Arlington Heights Neighborhood Association  
Arlington Heights United Methodist Church  
Bella Italia West  
Cookies by Design  
Central Market  
Cupcake Cottage  
Curley's Frozen Custard  
Great Outdoors  
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Pizza Hut  
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Luv 2 Fly Texas  
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Dr. O. Z. and Brenda Helmer

## ENTERTAINMENT

Bounce House/Jump House - Thomas Place  
Community Center  
Mobile DJ- Gil Loza  
Washer Games - Arlington Heights United Methodist Church



**Arlington Heights' Neighborhood Patrol Officer Tom McNutt brought his rescue dog, Magna Dea, to meet the neighborhood kids.** (Photo by Pat McCready)



**Kevin Lintz, designer of the AHNA newsletter and website, and his wife, April with their son, Peter, filled up on tasty treats donated to the party.** (Photo by Pat McCready)



**Flight instructor Lisa Ward meets the winner of her raffle donation of an introductory Discovery Flight lesson that includes taxiing, taking off, maneuvers, and landing.** (Photo by Mike Ward)



**Arlington Heights' new Code Compliance Officer, Cecilia Bell, (left) stopped to check on fellow Code Enforcement Officers Autumn Jacobo and Marc Olek.** (Photo by Pat McCready)



**DJ Gil Loza kept spinning the tunes to keep the crowd dancing.** (Photo by Pat McCready)



# CHURCH OF THE BELLS

by Kakkie Cunningham

There's something special about living near a bell tower and hearing the bells chiming in the distance, striking the hours of the day, day in and day out. A perpetual reminder in the daily lives of all who live within earshot of them, the bells gently let us know when it's time to get up, time for lunch, and time to pickup carpool. It can be comforting to count off the number of bell strikes and know exactly what time it is without having to look at a clock.

Bells have been ringing in Arlington Heights since 1951 when Arlington Heights United Methodist Church first unveiled their bell tower and carillon at the dedication of their new sanctuary building at the corner of Camp Bowie Blvd. and Thomas Place.

The history of bells as a means of communication, both religious and secular, goes back many centuries. Tower bells, particularly in England, were historically used to communicate the call to worship, the death of a parishioner, or even a possible disaster or invasion from the sea.

In the United States, bells were used exclusively as a notice that church worship services were about to begin.

When AHUMC began planning their new sanctuary building in the late 1940's, the sons and daughters of John and Emma Leonard made a gift to the church of a symphonic carillon in loving memory of their parents who were longtime church members.

The Maas-Rowe Symphonic Carillon contained 50 bells, tuned to both major and minor tonalities. This carillon was only the second carillon produced by the Maas-Rowe Company and the first of its type installed in Texas. It was dedicated in a special concert on November 18, 1951 and has been a unique part of the neighborhood ever since and is the reason AHUMC is known as "the church of the bells".

The carillon could be played from two keyboards located near the organ. One keyboard played major tonalities, while the other played the minor tonalities. The sounds were picked up by an electric amplification



Bells have been ringing in Arlington Heights since 1951 when Arlington Heights United Methodist Church first unveiled their bell tower and carillon at the corner of Camp Bowie Blvd. and Thomas Place.

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system and conducted to a sound projection system that was located in the belfry of the church. A completely automatic roll player was also installed, enabling the Westminster melody and sacred music to be played throughout the day at designated times for all within listening distance to hear.

The congregation of AHUMC was formed in 1923, with worship services initially taking place in an abandoned wooden hospital barracks left over from the army camp, Camp Bowie, at the corner of what is today Camp Bowie Blvd. and Thomas Place.

In 1929, a permanent sanctuary building was constructed there out of buff brick with cast stone trim on the northeast corner of the site, where it still remains and is one of the oldest buildings on the boulevard.

As the congregation grew, the need for a larger sanctuary became necessary. Architect Birch D. Easterwood designed the sanctuary, bell tower, and West Education Building which were completed in 1951.

During sanctuary renovations in 1987, a massive fire broke out, causing major damage to the sanctuary and totally destroying the carillon and organ.

The sanctuary was restored and a new, state-of-the-art digital carillon was built and installed by the Maas-Rowe Company. The new system contains 49 bells of each tonality that can be played from the organ console, and is also programmed to play the hour bell and assorted hymns on the hour throughout the day.

The bells are pre-programmed digitally and set on a timer, but can be over-ridden for weddings and other special events. Occasionally, an organist plays tunes live on the church organ.

Initially, the hourly tolling of the bells began at sunrise and continued until sunset, but due to objections from a few nearby neighbors, the church bells now strike on the hour, beginning at 8 in the morning through 6 in the evening. The carillon is programmed to play one hymn tune after the hourly Westminster chime rings. On Sundays, the bells ring only at noon and on special occasions, like the recent Veterans Day service.

During the 1990s, the bells were out of commission for a period of time, but they are now under the care of a local representative from the Maas-Rowe Company.

AHUMC is celebrating its 90th anniversary in a series of events on November 16-17, 2013 (go to [www.ahumcfw.org](http://www.ahumcfw.org) for the listings) and is proud to continue the tradition of being known as the "church of the bells" in Arlington Heights.

*Kakkie Cunningham is a lifelong member of Arlington Heights United Methodist Church. Her maternal grandparents, A.B. and Effie Bailey, along with her mother, Katherine, and her uncle, Paul Wayne, were charter members of the church, founded in 1923.*

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Arlington Heights United Methodist Church  
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### **A Look Back at 90 Years of Ministry**

Sunday, Nov. 17 at 9:15 a.m.

### **Celebration Worship Service**

Sunday, Nov. 17 at 10:30 a.m.

(only one worship service this day)

[www.ahumc90years.org](http://www.ahumc90years.org)



# OCTOBER YARD OF THE MONTH

The yard at 3825 Pershing Ave. was essentially a blank slate when Luke Kozelichki moved in four years ago. Except for a large pine tree at the side of the house and an enormous oak in the parkway, it was open season for Luke and his partner, Eryn Kearbey.

Luke wasn't fond of either of the two existing trees, but has tried to incorporate both of them into the landscape because it would cost a lot of money to have them removed. At the foot of the pine, he planted pampas grass. The oak had grown so big, its roots were exposed, so Luke mulched heavily over them and placed some pots of impatiens and begonias under the tree.

The front yard was sodded with bermuda, but the western section of the front parkway proved to be challenging for the grass. "It never looked good for some reason, so I put in a bed of rock and planted low maintenance cactus, like the red yuccas, along with a few pots of succulents" says Luke.

Spiral junipers flank each side of the sidewalk. Luke and Eryn wanted



*The western section of the front parkway at 3825 Pershing Ave. proved to be a challenge for establishing bermuda grass, so the grass was replaced with a bed of rock and a variety of low maintenance cactus and succulents.*

a low profile for the front beds, so they selected dwarf boxwood shrubs and added loropetalum in foreground.

It was fortuitous that Eryn worked at Lowe's part time while she was studying for her MBA. "It was great because I would get plants for \$0.25 from the clearance rack," Eryn admits. "Practically our whole yard is from the clearance rack, especially the seasonals." Luke says she "spent more than she made there."

A well-established snake plant lives on the front porch year round. "I cover it up with a blanket during the winter," says Eryn. Also on the porch are pots of spider fern, ivy and a variety of succulents that Eryn propagates by "breaking off a leaf in the morning and sticking it in a pot." She learned the trick from her mother and has had great success with it.

On the west side of the house, they've erected lattice and are growing mandevilla on it. Oleanders and pots of gerber daisies and lantana fill in the space at the bottom. Eryn uses Miracle Gro for fertilizing and also uses a liquid hormone her mother gave her. She is convinced they have "miracle soil" at their Pershing home because their begonias came back from last year.

Luke is in charge of mowing the grass on the weekends, fertilizing, and raking the leaves. Eryn "keeps the plants growing." All the potted plants spend the winter in a backyard shed. "I love my plants like my dogs," says Eryn who shares her home with three beloved male Cavalier King Charles spaniels.

As the winners of the October Yard of the Month, Luke and Eryn received a \$25 gift certificate from Archie's Gardenland and one year's membership to Arlington Heights Neighborhood Association. Nominations for Yards of the Month are encouraged and welcomed. Please contact Carol Berry, Chair of the Yard of the Month Committee, at [carol\\_berry@sbcglobal.net](mailto:carol_berry@sbcglobal.net), if you'd like to nominate a yard, including your own. The awards will resume in April.



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# NOVEMBER YARD OF THE MONTH

Joella Brazile is surrounded by some pretty stiff competition as far as Yards of the Month go. Joella's home at 2121 Hillcrest St. is the fourth home on her block to receive the monthly AHNA award. And there are still a number of yards on the block that are award-worthy, but have not yet been selected.

Joella and her husband Larry moved to Fort Worth from Midland five years ago. One of the reasons they bought their Arlington Heights home was because "it reminded me of my grandmother's house in Paris, Texas," says Joella. Her grandmother was the person she credits with "instilling in me my love of gardening." She remembers with affection when she was 9 years old and was walking through her grandmother's garden and "her showing me all her plants."



*One of the biggest challenges Joella Brazile faced in planning her garden was finding flowers that could take the hot sun from her yard's western exposure. She's sold on mini-zinnias that come in an array of bright colors.*

When the Braziles moved to Hillcrest St. they found some anemic boxwoods in their front flower beds, two American elms at the curb, and a pink crape myrtle. "The boxwoods were old, but they bounced back after I trimmed them up and made them symmetrical," says Joella. One of the elms was barely alive, so they opted to take it out and put in a Shumard oak closer to the house.

After installing a drip irrigation system in the front flower beds, Joella is convinced she's saving on water. "My next project is putting in drip irrigation in the backyard flower beds," she says.

Joella's biggest challenge has been finding flowers that can take the direct sun from her front yard's western exposure. This year she is sold on mini-zinnias which still look good, even into November. "They do well in the hot sun, they never wilt, and I love the mix of all the bright colors they come in," she says. She also discovered they don't need as much water as some of the other flowers she's tried there.

Blue plumbagos at the end of each side of the front flower beds have also done well. "I don't do anything to them, except some Miracle Gro and Osmocote, but they bloom and bloom and bloom." They've also come back on their own three years in a row. "When it freezes, I cut them down to the ground and they come back," according to Joella.

Also in the front flower beds is variegated lirope and Yellow Bells Esperanza which came back from last year and is a profuse bloomer throughout the summer. For the autumn months, Joella put out pumpkins and pots of brightly colored crotons and mums.

Two asparagus ferns hang from the front porch, counterbalanced by two Macho ferns by the front door. "It's unbelievable how much they've grown," says Joella who waters them every other day during the heat of the summer and fertilizes with Miracle Gro. They'll be moved to the garage for the winter.

Husband Larry likes to trim the trees, but Joella handles the rest of the yard work, including mowing the yard. "I love being outside and watching the plants grow," she says. "I like to see what works and what doesn't."



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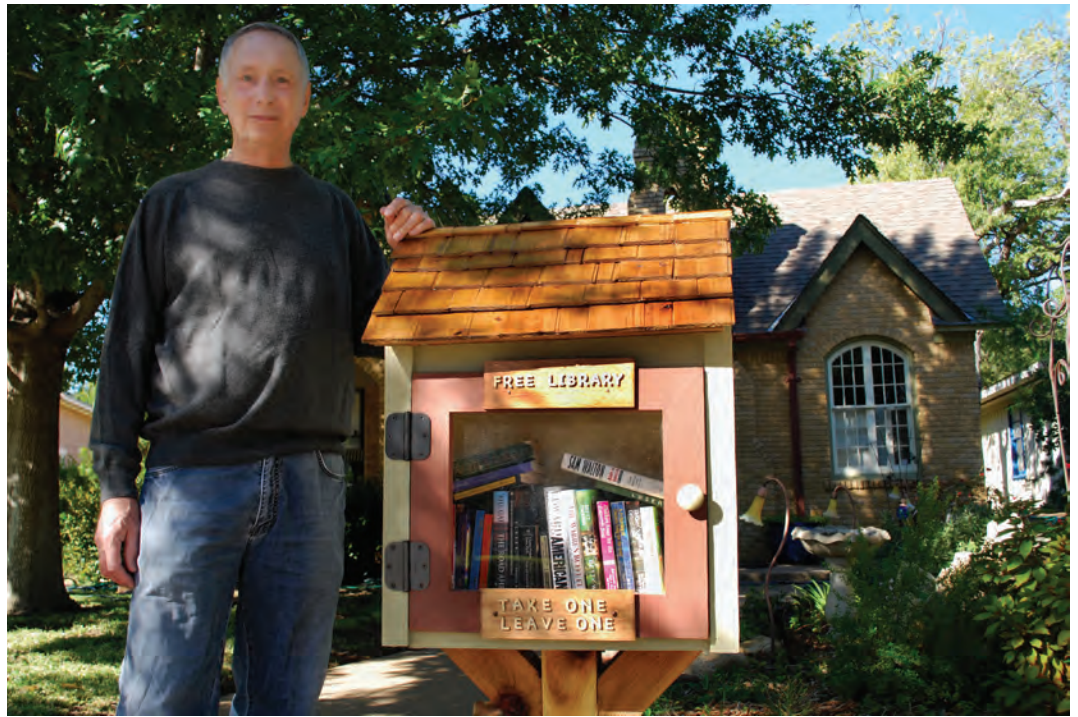


**NEIGHBORS - Continued from Page 1)**

on all the existing plants at the center. "We are looking for other people to join us who are interested in discussing the needs of the property and creating a timeline for garden projects there."

"I've been trying to make people aware of what a great place Thomas Place Community Center is," says Hannah who goes there almost every Saturday morning. "There are tons of families up there with soccer practice, basketball, the playground, and yoga for the kids."

Even though there's not a lot of gardening to be done right now, Hannah is looking for garden volunteers. "It will really take off when it's time for the spring garden," she says. In the meantime, Hannah is cutting up hula hoops to create makeshift tents for the freezing weather up ahead. Contact Hannah at [thomasplacegarden@gmail.com](mailto:thomasplacegarden@gmail.com) or by phone at 817-247-9430 if you want to get involved. Watch this space!



*Even though the sign says Take One, Leave One, Peter Kleven doesn't mind if someone takes a book from his curbside free library and doesn't leave one because "it's more important for people to be reading."*

Two blocks south of Thomas Place Community Center, Peter Kleven unveiled in October Arlington Heights' first Take One, Leave One Library in front of his home at 2104 Thomas Place. "I read about these a while back and then when I saw a few of them in Minneapolis when I visiting there recently, I got inspired to build one myself," explains Peter who built the unique library box in his garage, based on designs published on the website of [www.littlefreelibrary.org](http://www.littlefreelibrary.org). "Those wood and metal shop classes I took when I was at Stripling Junior High came in handy," says Peter who ironically lives right across the street from Stripling today.

A lifelong literacy advocate, Peter loves reading books who "thought this would be a good way to give back and it's a fun thing to do." Even though the sign says Take One, Leave One, Peter doesn't mind if someone takes one and doesn't leave one because "it's more important for people to be reading."

So far, he says, the library is self-sustaining, with books going out and coming in steadily. Peter bought the initial load of books from Barnes and Noble's bargain table, but now he sneaks in fresh stock from Salvation Army. "I try to put in things that are positive," he says. He also tries to keep children's books stocked.

"Initially, I was worried about someone leaving unsuitable books in there, but so far that hasn't happened," according to Peter. "I'm not guarding the box from that because free flow of information is important."

One of the surprising results of his curbside library is "how happy people are when they see it," says Peter. "The emotions, I wasn't expecting that." People frequently stop their cars and take photos of it.

Peter "dearly loves the neighborhood" and has lived here his entire life, except for two years when he was in the military. He hopes his library will inspire others to build their own. "Kids decorate the trees and leave their balls up at the community center and people plant plants up there.

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It makes it more human. That's the kind of neighborhood I want to be a part of."

Even though Sarah Stuart has lived in Arlington Heights for just three months, she's already busting with pride to be a part of this community. "My fiancé and I moved here from Oklahoma and we fell in love with Arlington Heights," Sarah says. "It fits our personalities; laid back, friendly and not cookie cutter."

Sarah walks the neighborhood every day and equates the experience to walking through an art gallery. "Every house is unique, none of them are the same," she says. "That's what makes walking here so enjoyable--it's a special place."

Growing up in a similar neighborhood of older homes in Shawnee, Oklahoma, Sarah started picking up neighborhood litter at the end of high school and continued to do it when she moved to Tulsa to teach pre-school. "It's so easy and simple," she explains. "We're all looking for profound ways to give back and this is mine. I get satisfaction from doing it."

You've likely seen Sarah, a one-person litter brigade with her sack in hand, picking up trash around South Hi Mount Elementary or Stripling Middle School which both rank high on her daily litter trail. "School kids don't think about littering," she has observed. Clover Lane and the I-30 access road also have high litter rates. Cans and bottles are the most common items she collects, as well as a lot of store receipts.

Occasionally, someone recognizes what Sarah is doing and thanks her for it. She admits, though, that she's "not doing it for attention or for a pat on the back." Part of it is selfish, she says, because she wants her neighborhood to look nice. She also hopes to encourage others to do it, too. "Think about what a clean neighborhood we would have!" she says. "It takes just a little work to keep it beautiful."

Sarah is impressed with Fort Worth's commitment to recycling. "In Oklahoma, you have to make a real effort to recycle, but here you have the curbside recycling bins," she says. "They make it so easy to recycle here, you have to be super lazy if you don't do it."



*Sarah Stuart is a one-person litter brigade who says she does it because it gives her satisfaction. She admits part of it is selfish because she wants the neighborhood to look nice, but she also hopes to encourage others to do it, too.*

Sarah, Peter and Hannah each have found ways to selflessly act on their passions by doing things they enjoy that also end up benefiting our entire community. Each of them insists the biggest reward comes in the doing it. They are an inspiration to all of us.

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