This legend of "The Twenty Arlington Heights Pioneers" seems to have begun with an article in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, May 29, 1935. It came forward in 1940 with Arlington Heights fiftieth anniversary stories such as the Fort Worth Press, "Land Now Suburb Once Sold Abroad," October 30, 1940. With some changes it emerged in Oliver Knight's Fort Worth: Outpost on the Trinity in 1953, although many of Knight's statements appear to have come from these sources. The Arlington Heights story then resurrected alive and well within recent memory through a Fort Worth Star-Telegram Neighborhood Extra of December 9-10, 1981.

Depending upon the version you read, the legend is essentially this:

"H. B. Chamberlain [sic], a successful developer of Denver's suburbs purchased and platted the land that became Arlington Heights around 1890. He built Lake Como, the Lake Como Pavilion, Ye Arlington Inn and a streetcar line from downtown to connect them. He sold twenty parcels of the development to the original 'Pioneers' but then went bankrupt in the Panic of 1893."

(Knight, Outpost . . . , p.199)

Knight's use of "twenty" indicates that the number was already established. According to Tarrant County deed records, Chamberlin's various entities had actually sold more than 400 "parcels" during the first year, more than 200 the second year and even another 100 during the year of the collapse. Chamberlin Investment had, however, built just twenty structures, as indicated in statements and advertising sketches. This included only 16 houses, plus a power plant in town on the Trinity River, the water plant at Lake Como, the water tower and Ye Arlington Inn.

From Fort Worth's Huge Deal: "Legend's 'Pioneers' appear to be the concoction of a social gathering in the 1930s, more than a quarter of a century later. A group of women, many by that time widowed, came up with a list of names that appeared in the press—by then, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. The article referred to twenty Pioneers and defined them as people who lived on the Heights before army Camp Bowie. That piece of print led to implications that there were only twenty people who built out on the Heights...that there were twenty homes...and that little more happened there until shortly before 1917. But plenty did."

What remains truly astonishing about that Pioneers list is the absence of hundreds of people who shaped not only Arlington Heights but also Fort Worth and even the state of Texas. They arrived continually; however, the majority can be grouped into three general waves. Naturally, the first brought those original 16 families, most of whom were financially connected with Chamberlin. Notables were Marshall...
Letter from the President

This year is coming to a close and beginning in January, Arlington Heights Neighborhood Association will have a new President. Christina Patoaki, who has been President of AHNA in the recent past, was nominated and selected to be President for 2011. We are very thankful for her willingness to serve our neighborhood!

At our last meeting, David Hickman presented AHNA with his sculptural design for a public art grant through Fort Worth Public Art, Community ID: Public Art to be placed at Thomas Place Community Center. It appears that at this time next year, the sculpture will be completed and enjoyed by our community! We feel very blessed to be chosen for this grant and that David Hickman has worked with us to create a piece of art that speaks to the history of our neighborhood and our vibrant future!

National Night Out was held at the beginning of October at Thomas Place Community Center and it was a great success! This family friendly event featured food from local restaurants, music, and two bounce houses, and was attended by approximately 300 of our neighbors. Thomas Place Community Center is also home to the AHNA community learning garden, which could always use some TLC.

In an effort to boost our neighborhood’s social calendar, we initiated a Young Neighbors Happy Hour. The inaugural Happy Hour was a great success with many young people who are new to our neighborhood and the area in attendance. It was really wonderful to meet new people and share a laugh!

Our neighborhood’s biggest social event is coming up! Monday, November 15th at 6:00 pm is our annual Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner. You and your neighbors are invited to join us to share a meal of Turkey, Stuffing and Gravy donated by Central Market. As always, you can keep up to date with all the neighborhood happenings by checking our website: www.arlingtonheightsna.com

Sincerely,

Dana King, President, Arlington Heights Neighborhood Association

Email: president@arlingtonheightsna.com
Cell: 979-255-6927

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

NEWSLETER SUBMISSIONS
Do you have some news you would like to see listed in our newsletter? Please submit it to: PO Box 470692, Fort Worth, Texas 76167.

For details, references and more names of early Arlington Heights residents, see Fort Worth’s Huge Deal: Unwinding Westside’s Twisted Legend: www.ruffbrickroad.com
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.
OCTOBER YARD OF THE MONTH

By Jason Sabotin, AHNA resident and AHHS teacher

The AHNA Yard of the Month for October 2010 is 3933 Collinwood Ave.

Since they began settling into their home about four years ago, the family has already made many changes and discoveries. The guest house is now renovated and functional for guests. According to Paul, Emily is an excellent cook and was the winner in a "bargain-hunting" after a holiday to take advantage of getting great prices for creative items he can use in the future for holidays to create a new appearance.

Since the house itself was segmented into apartments, many of the rooms were small. Consequently, they are enlarging and combining many of them to meet the needs of their family.

According to Paul, Emily is an excellent cook and was the winner in a cooking contest for "Cooking Light" magazine and a recent “I Am Runner Up” in a recipe contest by Central Market. She develops her own recepies and uses all natural ingredients as much as possible. She enjoys gardening and has planted many edible food items, including peppers, beans, blackberries, figs, and others that she harvests and uses for cooking for her family. She also uses many natural resources in garden-

The impressive Halloween decorations are Paul’s creation (see photos). He said it only took about 30 minutes to put them all up! He enjoys “bargain-hunting” after a holiday to take advantage of getting great prices for creative items he can use in the future for holidays to create a new appearance.

Emily and Paul and their family are really enjoying their home— they’ve been in it for four years now—and if you haven’t seen it yet, do take a walk or drive by and see what a neat old home it is! As Emily said, “We really love the Arlington Heights neighborhood and all the neighbors are so friendly and helpful!”

Happy Fall-O-Ween!
ARLINGTON HEIGHTS YOUNGER NEIGHBOR HAPPY HOUR
On October 26, AHNA hosted its inaugural Young Neighbor Happy Hour on the patio of The Gingerman. Focused towards residents in their 20s or 30s, there was great turnout of young neighbors from throughout the neighborhood. Did you miss the inaugural happy hour? Please join us for the next happy hour at 5:30pm on Tuesday, December 7 at Uncle Julio’s.

Social events are a great way to meet your neighbors, and our favorite social event is coming up - our Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner, at 6:00pm on Monday, November 15 at the Arlington Heights United Methodist Church! And if anyone has any ideas for more fun social events, feel free to contact president@arlington-heightsna.com so that we can set up the place, date and time!

UPDATING PETS RABIES VACCINATIONS IS IMPORTANT
Owners can get their pets vaccinated and licensed for $12 — and be microchipped for an additional $12 — during the daily low-cost clinic hours, 2:00pm to 4:00pm Monday through Friday at the Chuck Silcox Animal Care and Control Center, 4900 Martin St. The fine for owning an unvaccinated dog or cat is up to $2,000 per violation, and the fine for owning an unlicensed dog or cat is up to $500 per violation. Residents and their pets should keep clear of any animal they suspect is rabid. Any animals suspected to be rabid should be reported to Animal Care and Control at 817-392-PAWS (7297).

To learn more about rabies vaccinations, licenses and other animal issues visit the Animal Care and Control website at www.fortworthgov.org/animals.

FREE PERSONAL DOCUMENT SHREDLING
Dispose of documents securely and responsibly at Shred Day, scheduled for 9:00am to noon Saturday, November 13. Fort Worth residents can bring up to five boxes (approximately 40 pounds each) to Greenstar North America, 1100 N.E. 23rd St., for secure destruction and recycling. A certificate of destruction will be provided. Only paper will be accepted, so please check your boxes for any non-paper items before bringing them for recycling. For more information, call 817-392-3279.

DISPOSE OF UNWANTED, EXPIRED MEDICINE SAFELY
Safely dispose of your unwanted and expired medications and keep Fort Worth water clear of pollutants from 9:00am to noon on Saturday, November 13 at Trinity Park, north of Interstate 30.

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE
Sally’s Flower Shoppe located at 4215 Camp Bowie Boulevard will host its Christmas Open House from 8:30am-5:30pm on Thursday and Friday, December 9-10 and again from 8:30am-1:00pm on Saturday, December 11. Stop by for memorable holiday gifts and home accents.

BIRDS CHRISTMAS TREE
A Garden tradition for many years, this outdoor kick off to the holiday season is a treat for the whole family. Bring the kids out to festoon the trees with bird seed “ornaments”, see Santa and BG Squirrel and enjoy the other festivities starting at 11:00am on Saturday, December 4 at the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens.

ADOPT A PET FOR AS MUCH AS HALF OFF
Adopting a pet from Fort Worth Animal Care and Control has always been a great deal, but starting Oct. 7, it’s an even better bargain. The price to adopt a dog is dropping from $70 to $49, and cats are dropping from $50 to $25. The price is valid at the Martin Street shelter and the Hulen Street PetSmart Adoption Center, and will include standard vaccinations, a City license and an identification microchip. All pets adopted through the City of Fort Worth also have been spayed or neutered. To see some of the animals available for adoption, or to get more information on where to adopt, visit the Animal Adoptions website at www.fortworthgov.org/animals/adoption.

IS YOUR BROKER GIVING YOU THE COLD SHOULDER?
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Edward Jones, Member SIPC

Gretta was adopted from the Hulen Street PetSmart Adoption Center in September. Her new family just loves her to pieces!
Arlington Heights has flooding issues. Of course, this is nothing new to most residents. Driving through the neighborhood you may notice the hills and undulating streets. At one time, prior to development, there were numerous creeks and streams running through the neighborhood filling in the low areas. When Arlington Heights was developed in the 1920s and 1930s, the developers buried the creeks by laying pipes in the creek beds, then filling in around them to create lots for new homes. Unfortunately, as time has shown, the pipes were horribly undersized. Technology today allows engineers to model different storms and accurately size pipes. Back in the 1920s, this technology was not available and the result of undersized pipes, even during a relatively minor storm, is water overloading the storm drain system and backing up onto streets, properties and, in many cases, into homes.

Over the years, the city has studied the issue many times and developed numerous “traditional” engineering solutions. These included replacing the existing storm drain pipes with larger pipes, detention basins to temporarily hold water above ground, or deep detention basins to hold temporarily hold water underground. Every engineering study has yielded the same conclusion: extreme impact to the neighborhood, demolition of some houses, and costs in the range of $30-$65 million for just Central Arlington Heights (the area bounded by Hulen St, Camp Bowie, Clover Lane, and I-30). Imagine the cost to fix the problem neighborhood wide!

On Wednesday, September 22nd the City held a public meeting to discuss flooding/storm water management for the Central Arlington Heights and Forest Park-Berry neighborhoods. Approximately 40-50 people attended, including myself, as well as Libby Willis (president of the Fort Worth League of Neighborhoods) and our Councilman Carter Burdette (District 7).

Most attendees showed up hoping to hear a plan of action to address flooding in the neighborhood. Unfortunately, the City is still far from a solution. Instead, this meeting was the first of many meetings hosted by the City as they begin a new study on flooding and storm water management in the areas of Central Arlington Heights and Forest Park-Berry neighborhood. Although there are flooding issues throughout the entire neighborhood and the entire city, this study will only focus on these areas because they are the most extreme and longest running problems.

I know what you may be thinking: “Another study? Fix the problem already!” Reaction from meeting attendees was mixed and this reaction was a very common and loud complaint. Most residents in attendance, especially those whose house floods, are tired of waiting for the City to take action. In general I believe attendees did a great job in vocalizing their frustrations about a problem that has existed for way too long. Unfortunately this is a tricky problem to solve. First, as a neighborhood, are we prepared to accept houses being torn down to install new pipes? Will you be happy if the City chooses you? Even where the pipes don’t run under houses, installing the pipes to the depth needed could require shutting down the full width of a street for an entire block. This would cut access to many residents’ driveways. Could there be a better alternative? Second, the City has approximately $1 BILLION worth of storm drain improvements required city-wide. The storm water fund we contribute to each month in our water bill only generates approximately $25-$30 million per year in money for the city. While the easy answer is to implement one of the traditional solutions and move on, the City cannot afford to be overly cautious or stymied by its history of its impact to the neighborhood. The City needs to find not only an effective solution but one that is affordable and acceptable to the residents of Arlington Heights.

This new study will examine alternatives beyond traditional engineering solutions with the goal of finding acceptable, effective, and affordable solutions. The study will investigate novel approaches by other cities to address this issue. No idea is off the table at this time. For example, could a new system be installed that does not completely solve the problem but reduces the frequency of flooding? Instead of homes flooding a few times a year, would it ever flood so badly again? Also, instead of one big, expensive project, would the neighborhood accept a solution phased in over time?

Moving forward, the city has formed a stakeholder committee of residents in the two neighborhoods to help answer these questions and others. The committee will meet monthly to discuss the progress of the study, flood-mitigation options, and gain neighborhood feedback on ideas and options. Since the meeting in September, the first stakeholder committee was held on October 28. These meetings are open to the public. I attended along with a number of other Arlington Heights residents and I will continue on the committee representing AHNA and provide updates through the newsletter and AHNA meetings.

Ultimately, the City hopes to have a solution to present to the City Council by April 2012 for implementation. As this study moves forward it is important to keep in mind that there may be no easy solution with minimal impact to the neighborhood.

And for those of you outside the central area of Arlington Heights, don’t worry; the city has not forgotten you! Flooding problems in east and west Arlington Heights will be addressed after this first study is complete. Hopefully by then the process will be smoother with lessons-learned from this first study.