

Never Paint Again !

Arlington Hts resident Kelly Jo Nial won't have to

Call us Today for a free, no-obligation, no high-pressure estimate for your home



Metro (817) 713-5062 www.newspray.net



ARLINGTON HEIGHTS
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 470692
FORT WORTH, TEXAS
76147



ARLINGTON HEIGHTS

JULY - AUGUST 2011

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS & VIEWS

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

IF THESE WALLS COULD TALK

By Makenzie Carpenter

Whether you live in a newly remodeled home or an original bungalow, every home in Arlington Heights has a story just waiting to be told. Part treasure hunt, part jigsaw puzzle, researching the history of our homes typically begins by looking into the architecture, age and location of the property. An often overlooked, yet key component to this research are objects—it's amazing what you can learn just by digging in and around your house, even in the most obscure places.

Some homeowners found objects that demonstrated the resourcefulness of previous occupants. "When one of my clients was remodeling his brother-in-law's house on Byers, he found newspapers that were used as insulation," according to realtor and Arlington Heights resident Elizabeth Bartolomei. One of the papers featured an article introducing baseball's legendary Jackie Robinson. "He had it framed and then gave it to the new homeowners as a housewarming gift," Bartolomei adds.

We asked residents to tell us about the objects they've found over the years. Immediately, we learned that not only did found objects help to piece together Arlington Heights' storied past, but they also provided a tangible link between our houses and previous occupants.

What launched this project was a time capsule Chris and Tatiana Wicke dislodged during a recent fireplace remodel in their Virginia Place home.

"When the workers were taking out the bookshelves by the fireplace, they called me over to look at something they had found under the bottom of one of the bookshelves," Tatiana explains. Among the items inside the capsule was a 1930 vest pocket edition of 'Finger Tip Facts - about Fort Worth' from the Chamber of Commerce; a 1929 Fort Worth, Association of Commerce publication containing various old pictures of Fort Worth including the downtown area, the parks and neighborhoods, the river - specifically Montgomery Plaza, homes once located south of Interstate 30, churches, schools and hospitals. The Wickes also recovered a handful of dated advertisements and a greeting card.



A time capsule was discovered at the home of Tatiana and Chris Wicke. Among its contents was a 1930 vest pocket edition of Finger Tip Facts - about Fort Worth, a 1942 automobile owners hand-book, a 1929 Fort Worth Association of Commerce containing images of Fort Worth including the downtown area, parks, neighborhoods, the river—specifically the area around Montgomery Plaza, churches, schools and hospitals, a handful of advertisements and a greeting card.

D. Lou Ragan and her husband are in the process of remodeling their kitchen. Ragan discovered that the pipes behind the sink were not only insulated with newspaper, but they were covered with a cotton flour sack. What's more, they "haven't ever had a pipe freeze on that outside wall," adds Ragan. A plumber also uncovered an old steel horse shoe during replacement of the main, galvanized steel water line.

John and Lynne Von Roeder found hundreds of Mason jars under the crawl space of their Ashland home. Because you can stand in part of the crawl space, Lynne believes previous tenants must have canned and kept it under the house since it is always so cool there. Another find was a 1948 bottle of Coke.

We even had residents find new living areas within their home. In a previous article, we learned that Paul Almaguer and Dr. Emily Spence-Almaguer noticed one wall in their home that seemed to have a large space behind it with no way to get to it and seemingly nothing there. With curiosity as a driving force, Paul



Letter from the President

By Christina Patoski

I spent the Fourth of July weekend in Minneapolis visiting old friends. It's always inspiring to visit other cities, but Minneapolis is a special favorite because the city is well planned with a distinct European flavor and it's lush with gigantic old growth trees and vegetation.

One of the best parts of the city are the small, brick single-story commercial buildings on the corners of many of the older residential neighborhoods. Scale-wise, they fit in perfectly and serve the surrounding neighborhood. They are generally local, mom-and-pop businesses, like a restaurant or a hardware store, not a national franchise among them. If there's a second floor, it's for residences or sometimes offices.

I wish we had more of this in Fort Worth. There are a few of these charming corner commercial buildings left in Fairmount, like Old Home Supply and Arts Fifth Avenue. I'd like to see more of this kind of small-scale commercial development in our fair city, though I'm not sure the economics work out for new construction. At the very least, let's take care of the great vintage buildings that we already have, especially on Camp Bowie Blvd.

On my trip, I had a big eureka moment when I visited friends who live at the bottom of a hill and end up with a flooded basement after every big rain. They dug up most of their yard and put in a rain garden, filling it with native perennials and a small gravel path. The digging was a lot of work, but their basement no longer floods and they now have an inviting yard full of fantastic looking plants. They told me that the county even offers grants to property owners who put in rain gardens because they can be very effective with cutting down storm water run-off.

Rain gardens are a new thing to Fort Worth, but they are one of the solutions under consideration for the storm water drainage issues our neighbors experience in the central part of the Arlington Heights. Not only do they slow down storm water runoff, they also help to decontaminate the runoff before it ends up in our water supply.

If you'd like to know more about rain gardens, we've invited a rain garden expert to be our featured speaker at the AHNA membership meeting on Monday August 15. Read more about it on Page 3 of this newsletter.

Neighborhood Patrol Officer Ken Jacobs: 817-992-0187 (cell) kenneth.jacobs@fortworthgov.org	City Councilman Dennis Shingleton: 817-392-8807 dennis.shingleton@fortworthgov.org
Fort Worth Police non-emergency number: 817-335-4222	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 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.

ADVERTISING RATES Business card: \$25, 1/4 page: \$50, 1/2 page: \$100, Full page: \$200 Call 817-703-3646
--

AHNA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President

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

Vice President

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

Secretary

Dana King
secretary@arlingtonheightsna.com
979-255-6927

Treasurer

Renee Tidwell
treasurer@arlingtonheightsna.com
817-377-4775

Directors at Large

Beth Kaufmann
bkaufmann@gwdgroup.net
817-377-4006

Dave Marshall
zoning@arlingtonheightsna.com
817-738-6815

Jason Sabotin
jsabotin@att.net
817-874-4726

Sergio Yanes
s_yanes@hotmail.com
817-343-1018

Tatiana Wicke
twicke@gmail.com
817-946-2949

Makenzie Carpenter
newsletter@arlingtonheightsna.com
817-703-3646

AHNA COMMITTEES

Zoning/Board of Adjustment

Dave Marshall
zoning@arlingtonheightsna.com
817-738-6815

Newsletter Editor

Makenzie Carpenter
newsletter@arlingtonheightsna.com
817-703-3646

Neighborhood Animal Concerns

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

Citizens on Patrol

Jan Bourne
janbourne@rocketmail.com
817-737-6019

Yard of the Month

Carol Berry
carol_berry@sbcglobal.net
817-731-9523

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

IF THESE WALLS COULD TALK (continued from Page 1)

cut a hole in the wall and discovered a bathroom complete with an old-fashioned toilet with the tank high on the wall, a sink, bathtub and working light fixture. Apparently, it had been walled off sometime in the past. Since then, it has been renovated and is now once again being used.

Homes aren't the only place objects can be found. Residents also wrote of interesting discoveries in and around their yards. Carol Berry, Arlington Heights' Yard of the Month Committee Chair, has found dozens of old keys around her home. "They were found in and around the yard where I have created gardens," Berry explains. Several more were located by the garage, which used to have a dirt floor and an unpaved driveway. Roofers replacing the old wood shingles on the house even said they found old keys on the roof. "I always thought it strange to find so many scattered around the property," Berry adds. "Maybe someone who used to live here was a locksmith or something. I never did find a stash of money though, or any lost boxes that one of those keys may open up."



Gene and Judy Reed unearthed one of the original foundation footings of a building in Camp Bowie while landscaping their backyard.

Gene and Judy Reed are the second owners of their home on Collinwood. Upon uncovering something unique in their backyard, Judy contacted the previous owner's daughter who grew up in the house. She told them that what they had found was actually part of the original foundation footings of a building in Camp Bowie, the World War I army camp. In an effort to preserve and utilize this treasure, the Reed's asked their landscaper to pour additional cement to create a raised bed for Judy's organic garden.

Robert and Pat Gorden decided to rebuild the garage after moving into their home on Hillcrest. "While digging the required two foot deep footings for the concrete slab, we unearthed three World War II hand grenades. Thankfully they had been defused," Gorden says. "We suspect they were brought home as souvenirs and the wife said, 'not in my house!'"



Treasures turn up in unexpected places. This photographic negative of the Pendery teenagers and their friends was uncovered 50 years later behind tar paper on the wall of the garage where they grew up.

Thank you to all who participated by sharing your stories. We encourage all of our residents to take an active interest in the rich history of our Arlington Heights community and continue to share their experiences with their neighbors.



Ruth Story
Broker Associate
Keller Williams
817-992-9232
www.StoryGroupInc.com

NEW LISTINGS

1944 WARNER
2205 IRWIN

JUST SOLD

1905 6TH AVE
3900 LENOX
2621 WAITS

4000 W. 7TH STREET

SALE PENDING

1933 BERKELEY PL

Considering a move? We provide complimentary market analysis and home staging services. Call us to schedule your appointment.

Trusted, Reliable, Experienced...



FORT WORTH DISH OUT

By Jason Valendy, Arlington Heights United Methodist Church

Do you know someone who is dedicated to a service project? Are you one of those people? If so, you might be interested in attending Fort Worth Dish Out (FwDo). Young professionals throughout Fort Worth recognize that there are a lot of great ideas that simply lack the resources to bring them to fruition. As part of Sunday Soup, an international network of meal-based micro-granting initiatives, FwDo seeks to bring people together to share a meal while raising money to help support small to medium-sized creative projects/ministries.

The formula is simple. For \$20, you are invited to share a meal and great conversation with other entrepreneurial spirits who are also motivated and interested in helping to fund great ideas and projects. During that time, you will listen to three presentations and ultimately vote on which initiative you would like to see become a reality. Everyone who purchases the meal gets one vote to determine who receives the grant. The project with the most votes receives 60 percent of the meal ticket sales; the remaining 40 percent is split between the other two presenters.

The first FwDo gathering will take place on Sunday, July 24 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Times Ten Cellars, 1100 Foch Street. Leadership will be provided by the young adults of Arlington Heights United Methodist Church (AHUMC). Tickets are on sale for \$20 each and can be purchased through FortWorthDishOut.org.



All T-shirts, logo and print publications for FwDo are provided by Austin-based Sundaram Design.

Participants will enjoy a delicious meal prepared by chef Allen Lutes of Blue Tower Café. You'll also enjoy hearty conversation, lively atmosphere, motivating stories, the cross pollination of ideas and people and the experience of being a leader in Fort Worth. Prizes will be awarded to the first 50 people who register at the door that night.

The night will also feature a 90-second animation created by Red Sanders, a member of AHUMC and the President of Productions, winner of the Best in

Show award at the 2010 Addys.

For more information about FwDo, Facebook and Meetup links visit FortWorthDishOut.org.

JULIET GEORGE'S HISTORY OF ARLINGTON HEIGHTS

Local historian and author Juliet George will be our guest speaker at the AHNA membership meeting on Monday July 18 at 6:30 p.m. Juliet is the author of the book, "Fort Worth's Arlington Heights" published in August 2010 by Arcadia Publishing. Her power point presentation will pick up where she left off when she spoke to our neighborhood association last year. This year her presentation will focus on the historic commercial and residential buildings in Arlington Heights that are still standing.

Juliet is a native and life-long resident of Arlington Heights and is currently working on a second book for Arcadia. This one will be on the history of Camp Bowie Blvd., the commercial corridor, not the military camp. So, if you've got any leads or old photos for her, be sure to bring them.

Juliet will have copies of her Arlington Heights book for sale on July 18 and will sign them as well.

RAIN GARDENS 101

The rain garden concept is relatively new to Fort Worth, but rain gardens in the home landscape are already very popular in the Midwest and Northwest. Not only are they an important part of water-wise gardening, they are valuable tools in storm water management.

Jaime Hart is a rain garden specialist who moved to the metroplex from Washington State in 2009. After 25 years of working as a clinical pharmacologist, she turned to her love of horticulture and became a master gardener in 2003. She was a member of the Rain Garden Coalition for Snohomish County and the City of Everett and specializes in plant pathology and diagnosis, digital imaging systems for insects and plants, and garden design. She has been re-certified as a Master Gardener in Tarrant County.

At the AHNA membership meeting on Monday August 15 at 6:30 p.m., Jaime will show us what a rain garden is, how to assess a site and what it takes to build one. According to Jaime, rain gardens help to abate storm water runoff "which destroys our streams, dries up our aquifers, destroys fish and wildlife habitat and pollutes our main bodies of water. Building rain gardens is an effective and attractive way of controlling this at its point of origin."

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.

Become a member

receive your newsletter six times a year!

Please check: New member Renewing member

Household \$15 Senior \$10 Business \$25

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

What are your concerns/interests? _____

Would you like to join a committee? _____

Please mail annual dues (\$15 for household, \$25 for business):

AHNA, PO Box 470692, Fort Worth, TX 76147-0692

JULY • AUGUST 2011 Membership Form



AHNA Meeting Schedule

Monday, July 18, 2011
Monday, August 15, 2011
Monday, September 19, 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 FUNDS	
Advertising	\$2,475.00
Business memberships	\$75.00
Individual memberships	\$1,885.00
Interest Income	\$27.20
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED DONATIONS	\$4,462.20
TOTAL DONATIONS	\$4,462.20
UNRESTRICTED EXPENDITURES	
League of Neighborhoods	\$35.00
Office	\$143.21
Postage	\$243.30
Newsletter	\$1,253.91
Meeting Expense	\$346.40
Web	\$166.80
Yard of the Month	\$150.00
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED EXPENDITURES	\$2,338.62
RESTRICTED DONATIONS EXPENDITURES	
Feral Cats	\$40.00
National Night Out	\$30.82
TOTAL RESTRICTED EXPENDITURES	\$70.82
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$2,409.44
RESTRICTED CASH BALANCE AS OF 06/30/11	\$5,775.63
RESTRICTED DONATIONS	
Feral Cats	\$450.00
National Night Out	\$342.04
Western Ave. Project	\$4,983.59
TOTAL RESTRICTED DONATIONS	\$5,775.63
UNRESTRICTED CASH BALANCE AS OF 06/30/11	\$2,789.20
TOTAL CASH BALANCE AS OF 06/30/11	\$8,364.83

WILLIAMS TREW
REAL ESTATE SERVICES

SERVING YOU IN THE FINEST FORT WORTH TRADITION.

3707 CAMP BOWIE
FT. WORTH, TX 76107
PH. 817.732.8400
FAX. 817.732.8509

2821 S. HULEN
FT. WORTH, TX 76109
PH. 817.632.9500
FAX. 817.962.9510

WWW.WILLIAMSTREW.COM

COWTOWN FARMERS MARKET
Member of the North Texas Farmers Market Association

LOCALLY GROWN & HANDMADE

Fresh Vegetables • Fruits • Cut Flowers • Dog Treats
Soaps • Cheeses • Coffee Beans
Baked Goods • Hot Tamales and more!

OPEN Saturday Mornings
8:00 a.m. to sell out

3821 Southwest Blvd.
Fort Worth, TX 76116
(in front of the Texas Outdoors Store on the Traffic Circle)

JUNE YARD OF THE MONTH



Leeann and Chad Barteel at 4512 Calmont were selected as the June 2011 Yard of the Month. They received a \$25 gift certificate to Archie's Gardenland.

By Gloria (Glo) Thompson

Meet Leeann and Chad Barteel, 4512 Calmont, the recipients of AHNA's June Yard of the Month. Chad, a native Texan from Albany, and Leeann, originally from the Mount Shasta area of Northern California, along with their 11 year old son have lived in their home for five years now.

Chad is a project engineer for the city of Keller and a graduate of Texas A&M University. Leeann is the principal at Monnig Middle School in west Fort Worth. She completed her bachelor's degree at the University of Texas in Arlington, her master's at the University of North Texas and she recently received her doctorate from Walden University.

Leeann and Chad do all of their own gardening and agree that it is very therapeutic for everyday stress relief and more importantly, it's time they spend together, creating something together.

They don't have a specific theme to their gardening but strive to make their yard a friendly place where they can meet and enjoy talking with friends and family. They like a very natural look and prefer organic gardening.

In the front yard, they have perennials, including salvia, amaryllis, sage and various lilies, bushes, and a maple tree. In the backyard you'll find ferns, caladiums, and a yellow hibiscus which is their son's favorite. A Brogden rock rose bush, a Texas rock rose bush and hydrangeas also add color to their yard. They fertilize their St. Augustine grass using a mixture of chicken manure, sand and molasses. The result is a lush and healthy looking lawn. Pecan hulls are used as mulch in their flower and plant beds.

They get their plants from various sources, including friends and neighbors, the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens sale, the Flower Ranch in Southlake and other local gardening centers.

Keeping plants moist, especially in the Texas summer heat, requires frequent watering. Recently, the Barteel's purchased and installed a drip system and are very pleased with it. It is cost-effective and keeps their plants and shrubs healthy.

When asked about garden pests, both Chad and Leeann take a natural approach and tend to just let them be. However, webworms

are another matter. To prevent them, they use small strips of wasp eggs that can be hung on a tree branch. The wasps are very tiny and do not bother people, but they do prevent webworms from colonizing in tree branches. They have had no problems with webworms since they began using the strips.

When asked who piqued their interest in gardening, Leeann credits her mother and Chad pays his respect to his father and the vegetable garden they worked on together. Another person that Leeann especially thanks for her interest in gardening is Arlington Heights neighbor Ann Wilson who encouraged her to try various plants that will grow in Texas.

What Chad and Leeann like best about gardening: "It's a time when we can be together and are creating something together."

What Chad and Leeann like least about gardening: Chad: "Fighting weeds and especially Bermuda grass." Leeann: "Losing a plant and tulips—I have yet to successfully grow tulips!"

Chad and Leeann's one gardening tip for beginners: "Share with other people and build your yard over time. Don't get discouraged, just stick with it."

Howell Home Services
Quality beyond necessary®
Renovations Additions
Repairs Maintenance
817.680.3446
EPA Lead-Safe Certified Firm NAT-93683-1
© 2011 Howell Homes, LLC

BLACK CAT DEFINES ORGANIZATION

By Kelly Jo Nial

A couple of years ago, I met a woman through my neighborhood networks who needed help trapping an elusive cat in downtown Fort Worth. We managed to finally get her trapped, but once we got her home we realized that she was nursing kittens. Reluctantly, we returned and released her, knowing that the survival rate for feral cats, especially kittens, is very low. We also feared that we may never successfully trap her again. Nonetheless, we decided that in this situation the humane thing to do was to release her in order to give her kittens the best chance at survival.

Over the next year at the same location, most of the kittens were trapped and relocated to permanent homes. Unfortunately, our mother cat seemed to have disappeared, or so we thought. Out of the blue, I received a call from my friend saying that she had seen our feral friend peeking around the corner of an abandoned building. Her wisdom hadn't allowed her to forget the trap or the trappers and she was not coming near us. Knowing this might be our last opportunity, we set out to finally trap her.

Not only were we able to get our black, one-eyed friend, but we got her baggage too—she was about as pregnant as they come. My friend decided to take her home and transfer her from the trap to a large cage.

The next day she was off to the veterinarian's office. The vet was prepared for a feral, but a very pregnant feral? Fingers crossed. Shockingly, during the exam, Momma didn't put up a fight and the doctor was able to identify three kittens that were due any day. After she was treated for worms, fleas and tested for disease, she was released into our care.

One cage for a scared feral cat about to deliver three kittens was not going to be sufficient, not to mention the fact that most people don't have a room set aside in their homes to deliver kittens. That's when I got the call I so often get, "What do I do?"

In searching for an answer, I remembered a conversation with an Arlington Heights resident— "If there is anything you need or if there is any way I can help, let me know." I have never been one to ask for help, I prefer to be the one to offer a helping hand. But, I realized at that moment that being part of a volunteer organization meant not only helping others, but asking for help in order to achieve a larger goal, hence the word organization. Let's call it an aha moment.

With my hopes high, I called and asked for their help and they agreed. Well I'm pretty sure they agreed—their answer came out almost in a whisper. I know it was a big favor to ask, and I was thrilled. A day later our one-eyed, black feral, pregnant with three kittens, Momma was transported across town to an air conditioned shed. We named her Abby. Five days later on the first day of spring, Abby delivered three kittens, two girls and a boy: Iris, Lily and Cosmo. We solicited the help of a local rescue organization to get the kittens adopted, which they did after they were spayed and neutered.

What did we do with Abby? Remember she is a feral cat, and this particular feral wasn't interested in becoming a lap animal. We had her spayed, had the doctor look at her eye (it is congenital) and to our surprise, the owners of the shed said she could live in their yard in Arlington Heights. And guess what, she still lives



Meet Abby, a one-eyed, black feral. Her rescue story teaches us the value of an organization and the kindness found in Arlington Heights.

there—she even demands a particular flavor of canned food and lounges on the patio furniture.

We believe who Abby knows what an awesome place Arlington Heights is to live because of all the great people that call it home. Thank you to all who helped with the plight of Abby and her kittens, I wouldn't know any of you if I had never joined Arlington Heights Neighborhood Association.

817 Realty
Proudly serving Arlington Heights!
Ginger Coolidge, REALTOR®
Arlington Heights Resident
Direct 817.454.1567
ginger@coolidgeteam.com
www.817Realty.com
Mitzi M. Gray, Broker

SUMMER HEAT: IT'S A KILLER

By Dr. Jimmy Davis, Arlington Heights Animal Hospital

What's the first thing that comes to mind when you hear the words summer and Texas? I think I speak for most when I say HOT, HOT, HOT! Almost every summer I see at least one case of heat stroke in our clinic. More often than not, these cases can be avoided. This month I wanted to give readers ways to avoid heat stroke in their pets, and the warning signs to look for in the event your pet gets overheated and what you should do.

Heat stroke, by definition, is the inability of the body to dissipate heat faster than the load placed on it through high ambient temperatures. In other words, this is when a dog or cat, is unable to use normal heat dissipation methods (panting or sweating through their paws) to stay cool enough, which forces the body to overheat. This can be deadly, and in most cases, it doesn't take long to occur. For instance, the temperature inside a closed car can reach up to 120 F in less than 20 minutes, even when the temperature outside is only 75 F. Death and injury can occur in less than an hour.

Most of the time these instances can be avoided—first and foremost, do not leave your pet in a hot, locked car. Other things to keep in mind are outdoor temperatures. When outdoor temperatures reach more than 100 F, I generally recommend that you move your outdoor animals inside. Unfortunately that's not always possible, but there are some practical tips to keep in mind.

- Water, water, water. It's simple really. Provide PLENTY of water for your pet. It's critical that you make sure that the water is easily accessible and located in a cool, shady area, not in the middle of the hot concrete sidewalk. If you like, add ice cubes to help keep the water cool.

- If there is no shade available for your pet, provide it for them through an open air tent or well ventilated house. Where available, provide a source of air flow through a fan; misting fans are a great option. If you don't have a pool, buy one, a baby pool that is. These are quite inexpensive and provide a great place for your pet to cool off. Again, place it in the shade where available.
- Keep your pet from crawling under surfaces where they could become trapped. For example, I've seen a couple of heat stroke cases where the animal was trapped under the deck and overheated. These types of enclosures often aren't ventilated enough to truly keep your pet cool and the result could be deadly. Again, shade is good, but only if the animal can escape and as long as the area is well ventilated.

In most of the heat exposure cases that I see the animal is either comatose or unable to stand. They often are panting heavily and they are extremely warm to the touch. Take your animal's temperature rectally if the possibility of heat exhaustion/heat stroke exists. A normal temperature for a dog or cat can be anywhere from 99 F to 103 F. Anything above 103.5 F may be caused by overheating. If there is any concern of heat exhaustion/stroke, seek veterinary attention immediately. Before getting them to the vet, you can help the animal by rinsing them with cool, not cold, water especially on their belly and bottoms of their feet. The use of cold water may actually prevent the animal from cooling down.

By utilizing some of these practical tips, you can hopefully avoid this unpleasant and frightening experience. Again, whenever possible and when in doubt, just move them indoors. Trust me—your four legged friend will love you for it.

JULY YARD OF THE MONTH

By Gloria (Glo) Thompson

July's Yard of the Month at 4317 El Campo belongs to Thedra and Jim Bob Reynolds. They hail from Dalhart, Texas. Jim Bob (and, yes, Thedra says he does use both names) came to Fort Worth in August 2010 and Thedra followed in January 2011. They have two daughters, Allesandra, 21, and Marlee, 19. Allesandra is a senior at Texas A&M University and Marlee attends Colorado State University.

Jim Bob is employed at Lone Star Ag Credit, and Thedra has taught for 15 years. As a graduate from West Texas A&M University in Canyon, Texas, Thedra is certified to teach English as a Second Language (ESL).

Since moving to Arlington Heights, Thedra and Jim Bob have both enjoyed their home and gardening. Currently, there is no specific theme to their gardening, but they enjoy planting what they like and find interesting. They also are still discovering what the previous homeowners had established in the yard.

When asked what she likes best about gardening, Thedra said, "I like getting my hands dirty and trying different things."

Jim Bob grew up on a farm and Thedra loves flowers, so gardening has always been a part of their lives. Thedra has her grandfather to thank for her interest in gardening. "My grandfather always had the best watermelon patch until he was well into his 90s," Thedra said.

Their yard features a lovely display of monkey grass, begonias, wild fern and other plants. The Reynolds' plan to add more trees and color with hibiscus and other bright perennials. Miracle Gro is used to fertilize and mulch is spread around the yard, which, according to Thedra, makes everything look fabulous.



Thedra and Jim Bob Reynolds at 4317 El Campo were selected as the July 2011 Yard of the Month. In addition to having the AHNA Yard of the Month sign in their yard for the month of July, the Reynolds' received a \$25 gift certificate to Archie's Gardenland.

When asked where they get plants, Thedra said, "We go to nurseries in the area, including Archie's and The Plant Shed."

Another feature of this winning landscape is the backyard fence—it's painted green. Thedra notes that friends and visitors don't even notice the fence since it was painted. It blends in with the landscape very nicely.

What Thedra likes best about gardening: "Being outdoors and adding more flowers."

What Thedra likes least about gardening: "The heat and also rolling up the hose!"

Thedra's one gardening tip for beginners: "Just plant something – anything!"

Bring your smile to us!

Otice Z. Helmer, Jr., D.D.S.



817-924-1111

4431 Oak Park Lane

(across from the Post Office @ Hulen)

7:40am - 5:00pm Monday through Thursday

- Cosmetic and Family Dentistry
- Bleaching
- Dental Implants
- Most Insurance accepted
- Providing quality dental health care since 1970
- New Patients Welcomed

ALBEE BROS
A DESIGN BUILD COMPANY

Your Neighborhood Contractor

4612 McCart, Fort Worth, Texas 76115

817.923.7815

The College
of the
STATE BAR OF TEXAS

John R. Morris
Attorney at Law
1020 Summit Avenue
Fort Worth, Texas 76102-3422

817-348-9299
817-810-9009 fax
jmorrlaw@charter.net

NEIGHBORHOOD TEARDOWNS STILL FLOOD SOLUTION OPTION



A number of property owners on Western Ave. have built concrete walls around their properties to channel overflow storm water away from their houses.

Flooding in central Arlington Heights is a \$15 million problem, according to a computer modeling and value engineering study conducted by Freese and Nichols, a local architectural and engineering firm.

Last fall, the City of Fort Worth's Storm Water Management program assembled a Central Arlington Heights Stakeholders Committee made up of interested property owners. The committee met three times and was presented with various options to fix the storm water drainage problems in central Arlington Heights. From the start, the solution of tearing down homes was a hot button issue among committee members, some of who asked that it be entirely removed from consideration. Despite significant protest, teardowns remained on the list of solutions to be considered.

If the bottom line is the guiding compass, and in these economic times it's hard to do otherwise, the voluntary buy out/teardown option, also known as Greenway Detention, provides the most bang for the buck according to the study's evaluation of options. The current proposal calls for between 7 and 33 homes to be demolished on Western, Carleton and Ashland between Bryce and El Campo. It's difficult to estimate the cost of losing the thing that most people hold the nearest and dearest to their hearts, the place they call home.

Most residents do not view the neighborhood flooding as catastrophic, life-threatening, break-the-bank flooding. The majority of the damage is to cars parked in the street and detached structures built on slab construction. Rarely does water enter inside houses; very few pier and beam homes sustain significant interior damage.

Some homeowners have purchased flood insurance for \$300 a year through FEMA. Most have learned to cope with the occasional flooding through a variety of different methods which is why they are dumbfounded to discover that the city is seriously considering tearing down homes as a solution to the neighborhood flooding.

Tom Law has lived at "ground zero" on Western Avenue for more than 30 years. He's experienced flooding on his property multiple times over the years, though never inside his house. When he bought his home in 1978, the property was already encircled by a solid 1 1/2 foot high rock and concrete wall. It was effective in re-routing overflow rain water, but had one opening which allowed

water to flow across Law's backyard and flood his detached garage more than once. The garage became so structurally compromised that Code Compliance told him to fix it up or tear it down. He tore it down, moved his driveway from the flood-prone north side of his property to the south side, and put in a new section of wall to fill in the existing opening. Law says he now "has it under control". He has doubts that the city will ever solve the flooding problem. "All they ever do is talk about it," he says. "They always say it's too expensive to fix and then don't do anything."

Jana Hart has lived on Western Ave. since 1966 when she moved there with her parents. With her husband, David, she's raised her own family there, too. The Harts are the old timers on the block. They have learned the importance of monitoring the weather closely. When necessary, David goes door to door to warn neighbors to get their cars off the street.

Before Jana's family moved into their Western house, her father brought in truckloads of sand and gravel and built a small levee at the back of their property to keep the flood waters out. Jana and David have kept it fortified over the years and added a brick channel to divert the water away from their home. Their home has never flooded, although water has gone underneath it.

Like Tom Law, the Harts haven't gone to any of the recent meetings held by the city. "I'm pretty fed up," Jana admits. "It's asinine that we taxpayers have paid so much money to study flood solutions and then to have the engineers tell us that the pipes are too small. I could have told them that back in 1966 when I was 6 years old." She continues, "It's all just smoke and mirrors. They'll threaten to

take out homes and that will make people stop complaining about the flooding." She's also "irritated that the city is talking about tearing down houses that don't even flood."

Jana wonders why the city has never installed flood warning signs in the neighborhood, "and put water measurements on them to show how high the water gets. We can't even get them to put cones on the street to keep people from parking their cars there."

Jennifer Moody moved in a few doors down from the Harts and served on the Stakeholders Committee. Even though her property does not flood, she installed a French drain in her backyard as a precaution. She's concerned that the property values on her block aren't in line with the rest of the neighborhood because "the word is out that Western floods". In fact, very few houses on Western, Carleton and Ashland actually get flooded. Cars parked in the street, backyards, garages, and basements are more commonly impacted.

Kathy Walton moved to Carleton Avenue in 1998. Since then, she's experienced two floods where water came up through the floorboards of her home. The damage wasn't disastrous--her carpet needed cleaning and some equipment in her storage shed was damaged. She tore down the shed and built a two-story garage, installing flashing on the outside walls to mitigate future flooding. She also added a concrete patio extension to cover the opening under her house and started building a concrete block wall across her alley.

Walton is appalled at the idea of tearing down homes to fix the neighborhood's drainage problem. "I'd rather them not fix it if it means tearing down houses," she states. "I'm not worried about the flooding. I'm more worried about them tearing down houses. We can individually figure out fixes for our own houses. A good privacy fence seemed to work for my neighbor when it flooded the last time--it channeled it out of his yard."

The ultimate question is does the severity of the neighborhood flooding warrant tearing down homes on Western, Carleton and Ashland? There are also questions about the voluntary buy out solution, like what's going to stop the city from buying and tearing down houses, putting in underground storage and then building new homes on top of that, after displacing so many people? A concern is that even though the city calls for a voluntary buy out program the first go round, the question of using eminent domain arises on the second go round when there's a lone hold out in the middle of property owners who have already voluntarily agreed to sell. Also, what happens when the city starts buying and tearing down homes and they don't end up with enough contiguous lots to install adequate detention storage? The damage to the community is done, leaving a checkerboard of empty lots.

Greg Simmons, Storm Water Manager for the City of Fort Worth, continues to emphasize "The city is striving to achieve a solid consensus amongst community, City staff, and engineering consultants on the optimal approach". If staff hears no opposition, they assume that the community is supportive of what they're proposing. Silence is interpreted as support.

For many affected property owners the teardown solution has very high negatives. More than 100 property owners in central Arlington Heights have signed letters of opposition "to voluntary buyouts and teardowns as a flood solution."

There is more support for the proposed solution of underground storage on the athletic fields of Stripling Middle School and South Hi Mount Elementary. Kathy Walton likes the idea of a porous parking lot with a cistern underneath it. Miriam and Dave Hermann want to see more pervious surfaces and are perplexed why the city is putting in new curbs and re-paving the street one block upstream from them, "it's a missed opportunity to start mitigating immediately by using new, more pervious materials rather than the old,

traditional ones."

Some committee members want to see several, smaller out-of-the-box solutions tackled rather than one big solution. Neighbors have suggested buying out nearby commercial properties rather than private homes. Rain gardens and rain barrels are passive solutions that many neighbors find more palatable than teardowns. It's been suggested that Walgreen's convert some of their impervious surfaces to lesser ones. Another idea is to turn the Camp Bowie center medians into rain gardens.

Public involvement in this process has been disappointing even though the city has done a good job of reaching out. The membership of the Stakeholders Committee was flawed from the outset because not a single member lives in a flood prone property. City staff was disappointed by the apathetic response to their flood survey. The turnout of the final public meeting on March 3, 2011 was 30 people, just a few of whom are directly impacted by the flooding. By the time the group was asked to vote on the various flood solution preferences, only 15 attendees were still there to vote.

"I haven't gone to any of the meetings, because what's the point?" explains Jana Hart. "They've done another study, spent millions of dollars and not listened to the people in the neighborhood. If they did, the problem would be solved."

If you live on Western, Carleton or Ashland between Bryce and El Campo, you should be paying close attention. Go to the Flood section of www.arlingtonheightsna.com and follow the links to the city's website. Be sure to show up at the final public meeting to be held sometime in the very near future. AHNA will send out an email blast when the date is announced. Recommended solutions will be presented to City Council following the neighborhood public meeting.

PARENT'S DAY OUT

NOW ENROLLING FOR FALL 2011

For more information
Contact Lisa Arnold
817-734-2562

DREAMING UP THE IDEAL RETIREMENT

IS YOUR JOB. HELPING YOU GET THERE IS OURS.

It's simple, really. How well you retire depends on how well you prepare today. Whether retirement is down the road or just around the corner, if you're working toward your goals now, the better off you'll be.

Preparing for retirement means taking a long-term perspective. We recommend buying quality investments and holding them because we believe that's the soundest way we can help you work toward your goals.

At Edward Jones, we spend time getting to know your retirement goals so we can help you reach them. To learn more about why Edward Jones makes sense for you, call or visit your local financial advisor today.

Bill Fairley
Financial Advisor

5128 Camp Bowie
Fort Worth, TX 76107
817-377-2963

www.edwardjones.com Member SIPC

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING