

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS & VIEWS

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

FLASH FLOOD SLAMS CENTRAL ARLINGTON HEIGHTS

by Christina Patoski

This past June, Andy Jones was working at his desk at the back of his home on Western Avenue when he noticed the rain starting to surge and begin to pool in his backyard. "I walked up to the front of the house to check on things and the water was already ankle deep inside," says Andy. "The dogs were on the chairs looking out the window at the chaos in the front yard."

"I couldn't believe how quickly this happened," admits Andy who had never experienced a flash flood. He had just enough time to call his wife Jenni at work, then carry his two dogs to his truck and drive out of there. "The water was so high it was actually inside the floorboard of the truck as I backed out of the driveway," Andy says.

Andy and company waited it out at a friend's house one street over on Carleton Avenue where they watched water rushing over from the Western Avenue alley. SUVs were floating and a

field of debris was moving at a fast clip toward Ashland and El Campo Avenues. Within a couple of hours, the water was gone, leaving a mess that would take days to clean up. Andy found some of his lawn tools and other items from this backyard stuck by the street drain on another street.

This was Andy's first flash flood, but for those who have lived on Western and Carleton Avenues for any length of time, it was a weather event they are all too familiar with. Parts of Arlington Heights, along with many other older neighborhoods in Fort Worth, are prone to flooding during strong rain events, so the old timers have their drills down pat. Dave Hermann who has lived on Western Avenue for 19 years watches the weather radar like a hawk. Whenever there's the slightest chance of rain, he moves the family cars to higher ground. The Hermanns are among the lucky ones on Western; the water has come as high as their front door several times, but it has never gotten inside the house.

Same for Ralph Lauer who's lived on Western Avenue since 1990. His home is across the street from the Jones', but about ten feet higher. The day after the flood, Ralph posted on ralphlauer.blogpspot.com his photographs of this year's "roaring rapids", referring to it as a "perpetual



Roaring rapids swept over Western Avenue on June 24, 2014, burying the street, displacing cars, and flooding out homes for the second time in ten years. (Photo by Ralph Lauer)

problem". The rain "did not even seem too bad until I walked out the front door and realized I now have lake front property," Ralph writes. "A standing wave that I could have surfed on a board was forming over the debris flushing from one driveway," he observes.

Ralph talked to a woman who parked her car on the street that afternoon while looking at a house for sale on Western. The flood waters swept her car off the street, slamming it to the back of a property across the street and up against a garage apartment. She told Ralph, "Guess I won't be buying a house on this street."

Even though the Jones' home took one of the biggest hits as far as damages go, Andy and Jenni have no intention of moving because "we love this neighborhood." As she padded barefoot around her flooded home, Jenni kept repeating, "I'm so happy we renewed our flood insurance to the maximum amount". Watermarks show the flood water came up 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches inside the house and 20 inches outside the house.

Luckily, the Jones were able to move to a friend's house for a couple of weeks while they emptied their home of everything and worked with

(Continued on Page 9)



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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

by AHNA President Jessica Redman

Flooding. This very word is every homeowner's nightmare. To fight flooding, homeowners have to face another scary word: construction.

I live on Ashland Avenue, south of Bryce Avenue, where for the past ten months we've been undergoing construction in the City's first step for flood control in Central Arlington Heights. We've learned what it means to be dusty, dirty, delayed, destroyed, and developed.

The City did a great job of communicating with us before the project started by holding a series of meetings with Ashland property owners to discuss what would happen. Once the project began our sidewalks were dug up on both sides of the street and a 40-foot hole was excavated to house 10-foot tall concrete storage boxes designed to hold flash flood waters as they roll down the Central Arlington Heights water shed.

I will tell you that this was not an easy process for those us who had to live through it, as well as for Woody Contractors who won the construction bid for the project. Nerves were frayed on both sides when things went wrong as they inevitably do.

There was the noise that drove many residents crazy, from the beeping bulldozers driving up and down the street and the deafening pounding of excavators as they dug through 10-foot thick limestone. There was the dirt, a constant cloud of limestone dust covered the entire neighborhood and built up on people's homes into a fine layer of concrete. Some folks had to replace their air conditioning compressors because the filters clogged. Then, there was the mud, filling our streets, sidewalks and our homes, even over the holidays.

There were unforeseen circumstances, like water pressure spikes in our homes and low water pressure, resulting in air in our lines. There were days when the water was cut off right in the middle of my morning shower. Some neighbors had to call in their own plumbers to fix these problems.

There was a constant battle about trash and recycling--how do we get our trash out when there is no street? Then, there was the battle of the sprinkler system--how do I keep my landscape from dying without a sprinkler system in 100-degree heat?

Now it is almost done and we on Ashland are very happy. Our street and sidewalks look more attractive than before. A number of us now have new widened driveways that can accommodate cars wider than Model T's. The best news is the new storm water storage devices under our street got a good workout during the June 24 flash flood and were declared a success by Ashland residents who thought there was less damage on our block than from past floods of similar size and the water drained off faster.

Soon it will be Western Avenue's turn. That's an even bigger project that's scheduled to start in March. Living in a construction zone is no walk in the park, but don't lose sight of the fact that once the Western project is on line, it will work in conjunction with the Ashland project to significantly help Central Arlington Heights better withstand flash floods. Pray for patience.

Neighborhood Patrol Officer Tom McNutt

817-992-0187

thomas.mcnutt@fortworthtexas.gov

Fort Worth Police

non-emergency number 817-335-4222 Fort Worth City Councilman
Dennis Shingleton

817-392-8807

district7@fortworthtexas.gov

Code Compliance Officer

Marc Oler 817-879-8429 marc.oler@fortworthtexas.gov

JULY MEETING CANCELED FOR SUMMER VACATION

The regularly scheduled July meeting of AHNA is cancelled to accommodate summer travel schedules. Safe travels and see you in August.

SUMMER SOCIAL MIXER SET FOR AUGUST 18

Set your clocks and mark your calendars for Monday August 18 when AHNA holds its Summer Social Mixer at the Fort Worth Professional Firefighters Hall at 3855 Tulsa Way at Crestline Road. This will be a party more than it will be a meeting. The fun starts at 6:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

This year's party will feature a free smoked meat medley, expertly cooked by AHNA member and master smoker Jerry Bodiford. Free beer will be served to those who are of age. Please bring a side and your favorite alcoholic (or otherwise) beverage, if you're not a beer drinker.

Our special guest will be a representative from the Firestone & Robertson Distillery who will take us through a virtual tour of the local distillery. Courtesy of AHNA Executive Board member Sergio Yanes, everyone will have the chance to taste the artisan-crafted Firestone & Robertson bourbon whiskey. Walk or bring your own designated drivers, please.

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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

Funds in Unrestricted Bank Account

\$6,525.80 - Balance as of 6/30/14

Funds in Restricted Bank Account \$5,242.75 - Balance as of 6/30/14



AHNA Meeting Schedule

Monday August 18, 2014 (Special Summer Social at 3855 Tulsa Way)

Monday September 15, 2014

Monday October 20, 2014

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

Our meetings are held at Arlington Heights United Methodist Church
4200 Camp Bowie Blvd.

(enter through Hillcrest Street door)

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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.

LIMITED EDITION FIRE DEPARTMENT BALL CAPS

Order one of these special Fort Worth Fire Department ball caps before they sell out. These sturdy special edition caps were designed specifically for Fire Station 18's 91st birthday party on May 18. Once they sell out, they won't be reprinted, so jump on this today and become the owner of a classic Fort Worth fire fighter collectible.

The embroidery on one side includes the City of Fort Worth's longhorn logo with the U.S.S. Fort Worth inscription above it. The other side of the cap is inscribed with Engine 18. The front of the cap is the official Fort Worth Fire Department's logo.

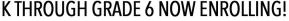
The caps are available in royal blue or gray with a black bill. You can order an adjustable cap, or in these sizes: S/M, M/L, L/XL. Please send a \$20 check to AHNA, PO Box 470692, Fort Worth, TX 76147. Be sure to indicate gray/black or royal blue (those are the only colors available) and what size you prefer.



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FIRE STATION BIRTHDAY PARTY BIG SUCCESS



Free food, drink, live entertainment, lots of activities for the kids and beautiful spring weather helped ages event, with lots of things for kids to do. to make this year's birthday party for our neighborhood fire station a big success. (Photo by Glen Ellman)

Hundreds of neighbors turned out to celebrate Fire Station 18's 91st birthday on Sunday May 18. The bungalow-style fire station at the corner of Camp Bowie Boulevard and Carleton Avenue opened its doors in 1923, making it Fort Worth's oldest operating fire station.

It was a picture perfect day, with event coordinators AHNA member Cindy Green and Station 18's Lieutenant Stephen Boynton pulling off another spectacular party for Arlington Heights and all the surrounding neighborhoods.

This is the second year for this free event, sponsored by Arlington Heights Neighborhood Association and Fire Station 18. Like last year, this was an allages event, with lots of things for kids to do.

AHNA would like to thank everyone who donated to this wonderful event:

Cindy Green
Lieutenant Stephen Boynton
Kem Anderson
Nancy Berger
Ben E. Keith
Bluebonnet Bakery

Bomber Spur
Camp Bowie 7-11
Central Market
Citizens Fire Academy
Complete Emergency Care
Camp Bowie

Crestline Area Neighborhood
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BRIT's Residential Rainwater Program





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JUNE YARD OF THE MO

Extra-wide flower beds bordering the front sidewalk and steps are the signature hallmarks of June's Yard of the Month. Thornless barberry bushes form the base of the beds and are surrounded on each side by a row of hot pink, coral, magenta and white impatiens. At the front and back of each bed is low-growing yew. Two enormous Boston ferns in decorative concrete pots provide the perfect accents for the top of these textured beds.

The brains behind this artfully designed yard is Adrian Wright who is an interior design consultant and the owner of Wright at Home on Camp Bowie Boulevard and Wrare in So 7. "Gardening is my escape, my therapy," says Wright. "It's great to get an award for my escape from everything."

Adrian moved into 4307 Birchman Avenue twelve years ago. Since then, he's worked hard to create color in a front yard with dappled shade. "Not much blooms in the front," he says. After experimenting with different plants, Wright found that impatiens work the best for the front entrance beds. In came up with for his welcoming front yard at 4307 Birchman Avenue. the winter, he switches them out for multi-colored pansies.



Adrian Wright's background as an interior design consultant is easy to spot in the designs he

The St. Augustine grass was already established when Adrian moved in. "I love St. Augustine", but he admits that the grass near the house is a challenge because of all the shade. He feeds the lawn with Scott's Turf Builder. Miracle-Gro fertilizer is applied to the flowers and shrubs every two weeks during the growing season.

Adrian chose shrubby yews as a border running along the front of the clinker brick and polychrome sandstone veneer house. In front of the yew is a line of pittosporum shrubs with cone-shaped hollies on each end. A Japanese maple in front of the dining room window provides an interesting break in pattern.

The three oak trees in front of the house were planted decades ago. For the street parkway, Adrian planted several years ago another oak and a sweet gum tree, both free of cost, courtesy of the City of Fort Worth's Neighborhood Tree Planting Program.

Knockout roses have worked well on the east side of the house because they can withstand the heat generated between Adrian's brick home and his neighbor's.

The front porch provides another place to stage some color. Two pots are filled with multi-colored geraniums with blooms in light pink, purple and coral. Another pot is filled with petunias, purple potato vine, and lamb's ear for contrast.

Adrian looks to Calloway's and Archie's Gardenland for inspiration. This year, he discovered a new plant that he's enjoyed having called the polka dot plant, known as Hypoestes phyllostachya in the trade. It's an ornamental houseplant with green leaves and pink polka dots that can be grown as an annual.

Every yard that is selected as an AHNA Yard of the Month receives a \$25 gift certificate from Archie's Gardenland, along with a year's membership in AHNA. Adrian says he already spent his gift certificate buying a large holly to replace one that had died in his backyard.

If you would like to nominate your yard or another deserving yard that you admire, please send your ideas to the Chair of the AHNA Yard of the Month Committee Carol Berry at carol berry@sbcglobal.net.



JULY YARD OF THE MONTH

It's taken Mary Jane Foster almost four years to get the front yard at 4007 Lafayette Avenue to where she wanted it to be. "When I moved in here there was nothing except the oak trees in the street parkway and the dirt was pure D concrete," she says. "I couldn't get anything to grow it was so malnourished. It was like nobody had watered for twenty years."

Ever since, she's been watering and fertilizing and adding compost. She says it's been a struggle. Last year she applied bags of Miracle Gro dirt, but "that didn't do it." She thinks what finally did the trick is this year she had five cubic yards of dirt and compost hauled in by Silver Creek Materials in Aledo. "It's the first year I've had a good yard," she says. And she was finally able to get her St. Augustine to take off because she used sod this year, instead of just seeding it as in years past.



Mary Jane Foster's yard is a shining example of what good dirt, compost, fertilizer and a whole lot of love will do for plants.

Mary Jane admits, "there's not much I don't have here", referring to the wide range of plants she's filled her yard with. In February, she planted bulbs, including elephant ears, caladiums, lilies, and daffodils. "I try different things to see what works," she explains. "I lose plants every year, but I just trudge on."

Under the oak trees close to the street she designed and built circular beds for begonias, monkey grass and Mexican sea grass. She has planted several Boston ferns directly into the ground which she says will sometimes survive the winter. Along with red and Spanish dagger yuccas, she has planted gerber daisies, sweet potato vine, periwinkles, purslane, roses, azaleas, gladiolas, and Mexican heather.

On her porch she has filled planter boxes with rosemary and other herbs and added hanging baskets of airplane plants, Boston ferns and "something purple I just bought for \$10 at Lowe's." She placed two well-established junipers in planters on each side of her patio sofa.

By far, Mary Jane's favorite is the elephant ears, "I'm so fired up about them, I can't tell you," she enthuses. She believes that plants know the difference when they're hand watered. "Your yard will flourish if you give it the time," she insists. "I know it sounds crazy, but it's been my experience that the plants pick up on the love you give them." When it comes to fertilizers, Miracle-Gro is her top choice.

"I'm not the smartest financial planter, because I spend too much money on this, but I love it," she confesses. Mary Jane would like to start a neighborhood plant club to share ideas with other area gardeners about what works and what doesn't in Arlington Heights. "People are always stopping by and asking me questions about things in my yard," she says.

"Gardening is so rewarding," she says. "It's always been my passion." Mary Jane plans to use the \$50 Archie's Gardenland gift card she

received for being AHNA's July Yard of the Month to buy some hanging baskets for her backyard.



CITIZENS FIRE ACADEMY BURN CAMP

by Brenda Helmer

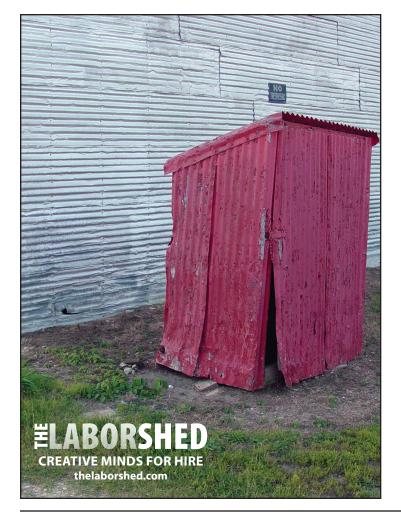
This June, I had the privilege of being a chaperone on a double-decker bus as a member of the Fort Worth Citizens Fire Academy. We helped to transport kids to Camp I-Thonka-Chi. Love Field Airport was the staging point for the buses. Southwest Airlines is a big sponsor for this event.

Camp I-Thonka-Chi is a week-long camping adventure for children who are burn survivors. The camp is held in Meridian, Texas at Camp John Marc which has been open for 23 years and hosts week-long camps for MDA, spina bifida, cancer and AIDS children. Their slogan is "inspiring confidence for life". This tranquil 140-acre setting is pure bliss with fishing, horseback riding, a "ropes" course, pottery, swimming and everything else for kiddos with a daredevil spirit.

These precious angels were delightful on the bus ride, though many of the newbies were frightened at times. Alas, with much tender loving care and cookies, they all had shiny, smiling faces when they were received by the

camp counselors who embraced this treasured cargo with happy, clapping hands and singing wildly.

Camp John Marc is a year-round therapeutic camp, 85 miles southwest of Dallas, and has many rewarding volunteer opportunities. I highly recommend it.





AHNA member Brenda Helmer, a graduate of the Fort Worth Citizens Fire Academy, helped chaperone children who are burn survivors to a week-long camp this summer. (Photo courtesy of Brenda Helmer)



(FLOODING - Continued from Page 1)

insurance adjusters to assess the damage. The entire house sustained water damage, so the whole interior will get new wood floors, sheetrock, baseboards, interior doors and trim, walls retextured and painted, and servicing of all the appliances. The rugs are all ruined and so is the furniture with wooden legs.

The bad news about the Jones' flood insurance is that it covers the interior damage, but not the driveway, the fences or the exterior of the house. They bought their insurance through a national flood insurance program created by the U.S. Congress in 1968. FEMA administrates the program and works with about 90 private insurance companies to help property owners who live in flood-prone areas protect themselves. The Jones' took out the maximum premium which is \$441 a year. "The reason why our premium is so affordable is because this neighborhood is ranked as a moderate to low risk," or what FEMA refers to as Zone X. Zone X is not considered a flood plain, so mortgage companies do not require Zone Xers to carry flood insurance.

This is not a flood plain? Tell that to Bret Starr who's been through his share of floods after living on Western and Carleton for the last 15 years. Bret survived the historic Arlington Heights flood of June 28, 2004 that swept through the neighborhood almost ten years ago to the day of this year's flood. Bret wonders why this year's flood which he thought was a smaller rain event appeared to create more damage than the one in 2004. He expected more relief from the \$1 million Ashland Avenue under the street drainage project which was up and running during this June's flood.

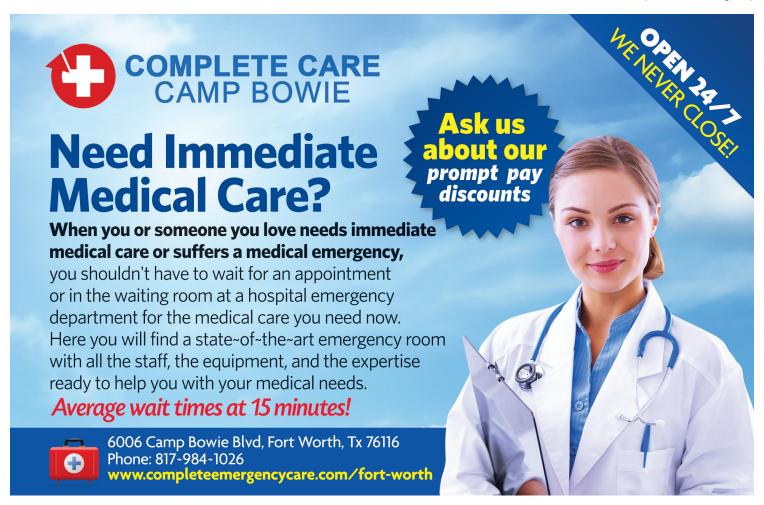
Bret called City Councilperson Dennis Shingleton to ask him to come and survey the damage. Councilperson Shingleton was on Western Avenue within an hour after the flood and admitted, "this looks like a war zone." Was the councilperson surprised by the flooding? Hardly.

It's been flooding in sections of Arlington Heights for a very long time. More than a hundred years ago when Arlington Heights was still an open prairie with very few homes, the Central Arlington Heights watershed drained through a naturally-occurring channel that swelled into a creek during heavy rains. The creek flowed from what is today Camp Bowie Boulevard at Hulen Street on a southeasterly path toward the Central Fork of the Trinity River. A number of houses on Western, Carleton, and Ashland Avenues were built on top of the creek which was buried in 1924 under large storm drain pipes installed by the City, something that would never be allowed today.

During heavy rains, nature takes its course. The water follows the topography and the creek tries to recreate itself. The Central Arlington Heights watershed still drains down to the old creek, even though it's long been buried underneath homes and storm drain pipes.

These 1924 storm pipes are the same pipes we rely on today to drain off flood waters. According to engineer Greg Simmons, who is an Assistant Director of Fort Worth's Transportation and Public Works, the 1924 drains don't have the capacity to accommodate today's needs, so the storm water ends up backing up in the Bryce/Hulen area and cascading over to parts of Western, and then flowing over to Carleton and Ashland Avenues.

(Continued on Page 10)



(FLOODING - Continued from Page 9)

Back in 1924, no one could anticipate how big Fort Worth would be today and how little open green space would be left. Back in 1924, people had fewer things that would be impacted by flood damage, like backyard swimming pools, air conditioning units on the ground, and multiple vehicles.

Prior to the Fort Worth Storm Water Utility Fund which was established in 2006 to deal with the city's drainage issues, flooding was treated as an afterthought of the streets department, with no dedicated revenue sources for fixes. The Fund was approved by the Fort Worth City Council following five deaths and two injuries on the east side during the June 2004 flood. Since then, the city has been charging a monthly fee to residents on their water bills. As the funds built up, the city prioritized the drainage problems in the city, with Central Arlington Heights being near the top of the list.

Over the last seven years, the city spent about \$20 million a year to fix drainage problems throughout the city. After several years of engineering studies and meeting with Arlington Heights neighbors to build consensus for affordable and effective flood solutions, the city and the property owners affected by flooding agreed on a set of action items.

First project up was Ashland Avenue where enormous storm water storage tanks were installed under the street. This project was designed to catch overflow water, bringing drainage relief to downstream properties. Ashland was selected as the first project since it was already scheduled to be dug up for a water/sewer project, making it an expeditious time to slide in the storage tanks. It also saved money because the street didn't have to be torn up twice for the two separate projects.

Next up is Western Avenue which has received bond monies to be repaved and through the Storm Utility Fund will get storage tanks installed underneath the street, just like on Ashland. Another part of this project includes the acquisition and demolition of three commercial properties on Bryce Avenue, directly south of Walgreen's, where surface detention will be installed. That area will remain a permanent open green space to catch flood waters during heavy rains before they reach Western Avenue. The \$4.1 million price tag for these two projects is already approved and construction is expected to start in March 2015 and be completed in approximately a year.

These projects will work in conjunction with the Ashland project to provide additional flood protection for the area. Even though the Storm Utility Fund is fully spent at this point, when new funds become

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available, the next piece of the puzzle will most likely be to install storage tanks underneath Carleton Avenue which was approved in last May's bond election to be re-paved.

Were the engineers happy with the debut performance of the Ashland Avenue storage tanks? The day after the flood, Scott Hubley, a Storm Water Management engineer with Freese and Nichols, went down and checked the storage boxes which he could see had filled with water, as they were designed to do. With video cameras, the line was checked from Bryce all the way down to Calmont and no obstructions were found. Everything worked as planned.

Matt Kirkham, an Ashland neighbor who has been flooded multiple times, concurred that this go round of flooding was not as bad for him as it was in 2004, "I'd like to report to my brothers and sisters upstream that it was a significant difference."

So, why did it flood as badly as it did? A complex set of factors contribute to whether a rain event will turn into flooding or not. According to Greg Simmons, you can't just look at how much rain fell. It's how long the rain event is, what's the rain measurement during the most intense 15 minutes of the downpour, what is the moisture level of the ground prior to the rain event, i.e., was the ground already saturated from previous rain events.

Looking at nearby rain gauge measurements and interpreting weather radar data help us understand why the 2014 flood created drainage problems, even with the Ashland project on line. On June 24, 2014, about 2.02 inches of rain fell in about 1 3 /4 hours, with 1.18 inches falling during the most intense 15 minutes of the event. In the June 2004 event, 2.2 inches of rain fell over 2 1 /4 hours; during the peak 15 minutes 0.92 inches of rain fell. So, the length of this year's rain event was shorter, the peak 15 minutes was more intense, plus the ground was already wet from the previous day's heavy rain.

As Councilperson Shingleton told a group of neighbors at a flood meeting held on July 2, "there's no silver bullet solution for the flooding." The only solutions that would absolutely 100% stop the flooding are either prohibitively expensive to do for just one neighborhood in a city with a hundred other neighborhoods that flood, or are unacceptable to the community. So, the best hope is to find solutions that stop the flooding of smaller rain events and mitigate the larger ones. "We've spent more time trying to figure out the best solutions for Central Arlington Heights than anywhere else in the city," says Greg who estimates that the City has so far spent close to \$3.7 million in engineering studies, design, construction and property acquisition so far in Central Arlington Heights. A study is underway to evaluate the affordability and effectiveness of installing surface or underground detention ponds on Stripling Middle and South Hi Mount Elementary Schools' ball fields, as the city has successfully done in other parts of town.

The alleys are an obvious place to consider for storm water detention, but according to Scott Hubley, they are not usable because they are already full of gas, water and power lines.

The other solution the city proposed for a 100% fix was tearing down specific houses and creating what they describe as permanent greenway surface detention. This solution was soundly and repeatedly rejected by a vast majority of the property owners for a variety of reasons. First, tearing down just one or two homes would not provide significant

mitigation, according to city staff. In order for this solution to really work requires purchasing and tearing down 30 to 35 houses in the Western, Carleton, Ashland area. Most of the homeowners found this to be a drastic measure that would sacrifice the character of our historic and affluent neighborhood. Also, in order to achieve the buy out of 30 to 35 homes would almost certainly require the city to use eminent domain to force out those who do not wish to sell their homes. Suing the city would be the only defense for those who wish to stay. "The other thing I don't like about tearing down all those homes is that it takes all that property off the tax rolls forever, and on top of that it will cost the city money to maintain that land every month," points out Doug Griffey who has lived on Ashland for more than sixty years. Another neighbor points out that the city quit maintaining the alleys, so why should we assume they would always maintain greenways?

Another option city staff looked at was installing rainwater gardens and rain barrels, but it wasn't cost effective when you factor in the flood damages it would prevent. "We think this is a great idea, but it's not a flood prevention measure," according to Greg. "It's not going to make that big of a difference in a flood situation."

Then, there are the drainage problems in the other parts of Arlington Heights. Some houses on the 3800 block of Bryce Avenue routinely flood. This area is in a different watershed, the East Arlington Heights watershed. This past June, high water was recorded in the area of the 4900 block of Birchman Avenue which is in the West Arlington Heights watershed. The city is aware of these problem areas, but focused on the Central watershed first because "that's where the most widespread problems are," according to Greg. "Based on priorities, based on funding availability, we'll be looking at these other areas as future



Heavy rains typically begin to back up at the back of Walgreen's on Bryce Avenue at Hulen. From there, a tidal wave of overflow sweeps down and over to Western Avenue. (Photo by Ralph Lauer)

projects."

Back on Western Avenue, Jenni and Andy Jones are readying themselves for six weeks of construction. "The good thing is that we're fixing things that needed to be fixed anyway," Jenni says. "But, our biggest concern is what if this happens again in six months?"

AHNA is posting all photos, videos, and stories about this year's flood at arlingtonheightsna.com. Please send whatever you've got to flooding@ arlingtonheightsna.com and it will be posted. To contact the City about the flooding, please contact Greg Simmons at greg.simmons@ fortworthtexas.gov or 817-392-7862.



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