Whispering Hills News A Community of Neighbors

Serving the Residents of the Whispering Hills Neighborhood

AUGUST 2022



Recognizing Teachers in Our Midst

Have you ever thought about how teachers at all levels of teaching affect our lives, even long after we are out of school? Need a doctor? A plumber? Lawyer? A vet? Insurance agent? Carpenter? All of them had to learn at least their basic skills of math, reading, science at some point in their before entering their careers. Advanced knowledge was taught at advanced levels. At all levels some kind of teacher was involved.

To that end, with the start of school this month, we wanted to feature teachers living among us. On pages 4 and 5, six teachers have shared their teaching experiences. There are probably more teachers in Whispering Hills, but we had no way of finding you. (Another reason for getting to know people living around you.) If you would like to share your teaching experiences, send an email to:

WHNAnewsletter@whnadallas.com

New!!

Classified Ads For WHNA Members See page 7

Neighborhood Annual Meeting via Zoom

Tues. September 13 7:00 pm Watch for Link Via Email Or go to whnadallas.com for info

Slate of Officers for WHNA 2023 Board

President: Open

Vice President: Davene Morgan

Secretary: Anne Meadows **Treasurer:** Cynthia Houck

Member At Large: Wendy Kelly

Past President: Keli Kincaid

Nominations Needed for WHNA President

Due to a change in job responsibilities, Keli Kincaid has opted not to be WHNA President for 2023. If you know someone to nominate, or are interested yourself, contact: Sonia Harms or Mike Gorman at their emails on page 2.

This is a chance to get involved in the workings and direction of your neighborhood association. Feel free to let us know if you have interest in any of the other Board positions. Elections will take place at the September 13th Annual Meeting, at which nominations will also be taken, but it would be good to have them before the meeting.

WHNA Board & Committee Chairs

NEXTDOOR NETWORK: whisperinghills.nextdoor.com WEBSITE:

www.whnadallas.com

WHNA MAILING ADDRESS: 10323 Cimmaron Trail Dallas, TX. 75243

2022 Board Members:

President

Keli Kincaid

WHNApresident@whnadallas.com

Vice President

Davene Morgan

WHNAvicepresident@whnadallas.com

Secretary

Anne Meadows

WHNAsecretary@whnadallas.com

Treasurer/Website

Cynthia Houck

WHNAtreasurer@whnadallas.com

Member-at-Large

Wendy Kelly

WHNAmemberatlarge@whnadallas.com

Past President

Chuck Laughlin

WHNApastpresident@whnadallas.com

Committee Chairs:

VIP /Crime Watch Coordinator

Mike Gorman

WHNAvipcoordinator@whnadallas.com

Newsletter

Sonia Harms, Editor

WHNAnewsletter@whnadallas.com

Helen Meyer, Features

WHNAnewsfeatures@whnadallas.com

Social

Paulette Standefer

WHNAsocial@whnadallas.com

Parks/Recycling

Carol Tobias

WHNAparks@whnadallas.com

Grounds and Improvements

Alan Ravkind

WHNA grounds@whnadallas.com

Membership Drive Coordinator - OPEN

Reported Crime and Safety Issues 06/14 to 07/31

Submitted by Mike Gorman, Crime Watch Coordinator

Incident Report By	No.	Incident Report By	No.	Location of	No.
Туре	Reports	Street	Reports	Incident Report	Reports
Break-in MV	1	Baythorne	1	Street	5
Dog Bite	2	Bettywood	1	House	4
Found Property	2	Brentridge Ct.	2	School	2
Illegal Fireworks	2	Daystrom	1	Yard	2
Property Theft	1	Deermont	1	Driveway	2
Prowler	2	Hornbeam	1	Alleyway	1
Solicitors	2	Jasoncrest	1	Unknown	1
Suspicious Activity	1	Jennifer Place	1	Total	17
Veh. Hit & Run	2	Lawler	3	NEIGHBORHOOD WHISPERING HILLS MEIGHBORHOOD ASSN	
Veh. Prop. Theft	1	Rita	3	CRIME WATCH Volu	nteers
Veh. Vandalism	1	Whispering Hills	2		ln
Total	17	Total	17	Crimewatch Area 9	trol

Be Wary of Solicitor Activity

Submitted by Mike Gorman, VIP Coordinator

A couple of weeks ago in Whispering Hills and College Park in Richardson, two solicitors with no identification, but carrying iPads were canvassing the neighborhood. They have may have been using the iPads to establish creditability with the homeowners that they approached. When residents were shown the iPads, there was some type of message showing reference to something from Oncor.

Once the solicitors got the resident to believing they were legit, they started to explain that they were selling solar panels with the supposedly consent of Oncor.

The Richardson VIP coordinator, reported that a couple of residents even bought the panels without researching the companies or the panels they were selling. Richardson Police had stopped a similar group and the name of the company that they represented was fake.

The final point is the recent news reports about fires in Plano or Allen from defective or cheaply built solar panels. Also, no one should ever buy anything or even open the door for unknown solicitors.

Don't Feed the Wildlife--It's Rat Season

Several people in the area have reported issues with rats. A way to deter them is to use fox urine which can be gotten at Lowes, WalMart, etc.

Leaving food out with intention of feeding wildlife or strays, invites coyotes, bobcats, raccoons, mice, rats, and other animals that we do not want to encourage to live among us. Much of our food is not healthy for them anyway. Garbage dropped by sanitation workers, should also be picked up. See if you and your neighbors can find nests around you.

Our area is already dealing with coyote issues. Fox sightings have also been reported. While it can be exciting to see wild animals, they can also be a danger if one does not know how to deal with their presence.

If You Haven't Visited the New WHNA Website, Check It Out at www.whnadallas.com

By Cynthia Houck

The landing or home page gives an | overview of the site with links to each section. Sections can be reached by links along the top of the page and throughout the page itself. The vertical column on the left is being used to post WHNA news.

OUR INFO

Contact List – A list of all Board Members and Committee Chairs with their contact info.

Newsletter Archive - Links to all of this year's WHNA newsletters.

Map – An interactive map of the

neighborhood. Moving the little the back of this newsletter for your man into the map area opens Google Maps at street level.

CALENDAR

The calendar shows details of upcoming events in the neighborhood.

PAGES & LINKS

How to Join WHNA - A link to joining by Venmo or PayPal, as well as a WHNA Membership Form to be used the old fashioned way by sending a check via U.S. Mail. A copy of the membership form is on

convenience.

Documents & Pages – Information about the Association, the neighborhood, and the VIP/Crime Watch program.

External Links – to websites of interest to our neighbors

We hope the website will become a helpful reference tool. Please let me know if there is other information that you feel should be added. Emails may be sent to me at WHNAtreasurer@whnadallas.com.

Some Common Sense Tips for Secure Mobile Shopping

From Norton Security Online to protect from Hackers

- Always download mobile banking apps straight from your bank's website or from official app stores.
- If the financial site or payment app offers two-or multi-factor authentication, do it. Your account will be less likely to get compromised.
- Don't allow your mobile device to automatically connect to public Wi-Fi networks. Your payment information could get intercepted by hackers.
- Regularly log out of financial and shopping sites and apps, especially if they have your credit card or other financial data stored.
- Use your credit card instead of a debit card for mobile payment apps. Credit cards typically have better fraud protection.



Our neighborhood is seeing more and more non-resident landlords leasing to people with no desire or ability to take care of the property and to follow established City of Dallas Code requirements. Our neighboring neigh-

borhood (Richland Park Estates) is starting to place yard signs stating "Homes Not STR Hotels." You can purchase signs from txneighborhoodcoalition.com. (STR = Short Term Rental) The signs are \$5.

Wall Repair and Painting Project

By the time you read this, the wall repair and painting will most likely be finished, or at least nearly finished. The repaired section was stamped to match the design of the rest of the wall. Weeds and limbs were trimmed back, and the wall power-washed, before painting started. The project will include a section of the wall facing the tracks on the west side.

Kudos to a **Conscientious Neighbor**

A gentleman in black jogging shorts living on Hornbeam was spotted picking up trash left there by people parking along the street. WHNA would like to thank him for taking the initiative to help keep our neighborhood looking nice.

Thanks to all of our neighbors who take care of their yards and do extra things. You are noticed and appreciated.

Speed Cushions Coming? We're still waiting on definitive news from the City on plans.

Thank you, Teachers, for Sharing Your Experiences!

The comments the teachers made reflect responses to questions relayed to them by Helen Meyer and edited by Sonia Harms.

I grew up in north Dallas but haven't lived here since 2010. My husband and I moved back to Dallas last year from Houston.

I have always wanted to teach and I had amazing mentors along my teaching journey to help and encourage me. Currently, I teach 2nd grade at The Covenant School.

I love the community aspect of teaching at a smaller school. My education degree emphasis is children's literature, so I love the reading aspect of my school days.

Being able to individualize the needs of each student in my class while moving along through curriculum can be challenging.

One of the joys of teaching younger students (I have also taught many years in pre-k and kindergarten) is that you get to see them grow throughout elementary school. The seeds of learning you plant throughout a school year aren't always seen while they are still in your class. Being visited by old students is such a joy!



Marybeth Barefield

I was born in Bamberg, in Bavaria, West-Germany. I have lived in Whispering Hills since 1998 and enjoy my friendly and helpful neighbors. I have one son and one grandson.

Until my son was born 26 years ago, I was successfully employed in the Finance and Accounting Business sector. About 21 years ago I was ready for a second career. I used to volunteer at my son's preschool and realized how important and necessary it is to educate and guide young children; they are our future. So I decided to step into education and that's where I will be until my retirement.

I've been employed at RISD for 20 years; for the last 15 I've been at Jess Harben Elementary. I support students with learning disabilities in Kindergarten through sixth grade in Math, Language Art, Science and Social Studies.

Being around children is exciting and fulfilling for me. They are so curious and they come up with the most amazing answers. I encourage students to ask many questions because there is no wrong question in my opinion. It's priceless to see kids learning to solve problems on their own.



Gertrud Gillette

About 8 years ago there was a former homeless student in my group. He was starving for knowledge and attention. He was trying so hard to fit in. He always remembered to say thank you. All children don't grow up in a loving home environment. At least during their school day I can show them they are important and I am happy they come to school every day. One day a first grader asked for my phone number because he wanted to be able to call me if he needs help in college.

I am a native Dallasite. The summer of my 6th grade year, my family moved to Lubbock, Tx, where I remained until I graduated from Texas Tech in 1990. I have lived in Whispering Hills since 2011. My mother and I share our home.

Both of my mother's parents, and several of my great aunts and uncles were teachers. Mom was an amazing example of the love, compassion and dedication it takes to be an excellent teacher. I helped with bulletin boards, sorting & grading papers, and organizing classrooms. I started Texas Tech majoring in Political Science, found that it wasn't for me, and changed my major to education. I realized that I was called to teach and influence children's lives.

This is my 30th year in education! In the course of my career, I've taught 6th grade, 4th grade and have worked as the school librarian. I joined RISD 4 years ago and am currently the LITE (Library Information Technology Educator aka Librarian) at Skyview Elementary. I provide instruction for Pre-K to 6th grade. I love the range of ages that I work with and the variety of instruction I provide. The greatest thing about my job is helping to ignite the spark that will keep kids learning their entire lives.



Mary McWilliams

The most important challenge I face is trying to reach out and connect with those students that struggle in school or have difficulty finding success. I love finding ways to connect with them personally. Sometimes I am able to help them to see themselves differently and that is rewarding. Another challenge is finding the time that I need to collaborate with fellow educators and to plan effective instruction for scholars.

When former students visit me, or find me on social media, it makes my heart soar! I love to hear all that they have accomplished and the triumphs they have in life. When they remember something that I taught them or said, it reminds me of my WHY for being an educator.

Usma Shahi

I grew up and completed a Masters in English Literature in Pakistan. We moved from New York to Dallas 10 years ago and have lived in Whispering Hills 8 years

My family and friends say that I was born to be a teacher. My teachers inspired me so much through their behavior and teaching skills. I am a good listener and an extroverted, friendly person. Teaching gives me the opportunity to enjoy myself.

Currently, I am a Dallas ISD middle school ESL/AVID Excel educator. Understanding the different learning challenges amongst students is a rocky road. Building good relationship with my students help me break the barrier. I strongly believe in "Actions speak louder than words." I don't tell, I show my students, and teach them life skills along with my subject. In the end I often receive individual compliments from students saying," Ms. Shahi, I am lucky that I have you as my teacher." Those words encourage me to stay in this profession forever.



Brandee Nelson

I was born in McAllen, Texas, but most of my childhood was spent in Lufkin, Texas. High school and college years were spent in Louisiana. I attended Louisiana Christian University in Pineville, LA. During my last year in college my parents moved back to Texas, making their home in Dallas. When I finished my degree 10 years ago, I moved to Dallas to be closer to my parents. Now I reside with them in Whispering Hills.

While in high school, I volunteered to help out with Vacation Bible Study at my church. I knew I wanted to make my profession working with children; I just wasn't sure which area to pursue. I never really thought about teaching as an option

My BA is in Elementary Special Education, and my Masters is in Education, specializing in Dyslexia. I am certified in Elementary Education, Special Education, English Second Language, and Educational Diagnostician. I am also a certified Academic Language Arts Therapist, and a licensed Dyslexia Therapist. I have been teaching for close to 20 years. I have taught special education in a resource classroom, and as a second grade ESL teacher for Dallas Independent School District. I also taught first and second grade for Richardson Independent School District. Currently, I am a Dyslexic Therapist in the Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Dallas.

The Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Dallas use the Take Flight Program from Scottish Rites Hospital to help students with dyslexia. It is a pull-out program that helps children with their phonics, spelling, writing skills, and reading fluency. The students that I teach come from various grades (2nd-8th grade). I travel to three Catholic Schools in West Dallas, working with two small dyslexia groups at each school. I enjoy working with small groups. I find that the more hands-on approach and guidance helps the students gain academically. They love being able to monitor their reading. It gives them a sense of pride and ownership. Seeing them smile or get excited when they recognize their growth brings joy to my heart.

Three years ago, I began working with a young girl in the second grade. When she started the Take Flight Program that first year, she could barely read and spell. There was some growth with her reading and spelling by the end of the year. But, into her second year in the program, her mom, teachers, and I could see growth by leaps and bounds in her reading, spelling, and writing. She enjoyed reading so much that she volunteered to be a reader at the school Mass. It was wonderful to see her stand up in front of all the students, teachers, and parents and listen to her read beautifully!!



I grew up in Dallas and have lived in Whispering Hills since 1979.

From the time I was a little girl, I remember lining up my stuffed animals and writing their lessons on my little chalkboard. I have always had a passion for history and an enthusiasm for passing on that information to others

I am currently teaching at the Garland Alternative Education Center. I teach World Geography to ninth graders and Economics and US Government to 12th graders.

I enjoy helping students make the "connection" to what they are learning, and watching the light bulb go on in their heads when they understand something with which they have been struggling.

I also enjoy helping students to understand how our systems have developed throughout history and why some work and some don't.

Lindsay Nadelman It is a challenge helping students to understand where to find information. Although computers are great places to find information, students use them more to watch videos and play games rather than focus on the lessons at hand. Teaching students to think critically is a huge challenge. They are so used to just copying what they see and not

thinking about why the answers are correct. Students often stay up all night playing games on their computers and on their phones and then use class time to sleep. It makes it hard to keep them engaged in the lesson at hand.

It is always inspiring to help students understand how to come by their information. I once had a student who brazenly sat next to someone daily and cheated off their paper. When I confronted him, he said "Oh I have to cheat because I can't do the work." For the next three weeks I had him sit by my desk and together we went through the assignments and the textbook and where he could find the work. He began making A's daily on the work he was doing and was so proud of himself. It was truly inspirational.

City of Dallas Public Safety Committee Meeting 08/08/2022

From Notes taken by Mike Gorman while attending the PSC Meeting

Violent Crime Reduction Plan

- a. Major Violent Crimes Initiative (Homicides, Ag gravated Assaults and Robberies) down 5% thru 7/31/22
- b. City Homicides Up 16 as of 7/31/22 YTD; down 7 for July
- c. Robbery of Businesses is up YTD
- d. Aggravated Assaults mainly due to arguments, conflicts, and road rage
- e. Arrests 19,933 thru 7/31/2022 versus 21,874 in 20-21
- f. Guns confiscated 2459 thru 7/31/2022 versus 2539 in 2021

Grid Review and Next Steps

- a. The 50 grids for high police concentration have been reviewed and changed as data shown.
- b. Place Network Initiative Locations for High Crime grids with most crime and arrests
- c. There are currently 2 locations under PNI program
- d. Focused Deterrence Program
- e. Amplifying Trust Initiative DPD and partners are having, and have had, numerous summer active ties to establish trust within high crimes grids to improve relationships with the community and kids.

School Crossing Guard Program

- a. 20 additional crossing guards being added through 3rd party contractor for a total of 183 schools.
- b. Total expense for 2021-22 school year was \$4.3 million. 2022-23 budget is estimated at \$5.4 \$5.8 million.

Council Requests and Questions

- a. T. Atkins stated and DPD agreed that the biggest source of crime is apartments
- b.T. Atkins requested that as many cameras as possible be added and be identified as DPD for deterrence purposes.
- c. DPD stated that 28 if the 50 grids include apart ment groupings.
 - Councilman Thomas recommended that DPD reach out to all religious groups around apart-

- ment grid areas be contacted and used as partners.
- e. Councilman Moreno thanked DPD for actions in Deep Ellum and asked if street closures during certain hours could be made permanent.
- f. Deep Ellum business owners have added 50 security cameras that are linked to DPD.
- g. Councilwoman Mendelsohn ask that information be given on staffing needs at DPD as of current date. She also wants detailed information on how much crime is in apartments versus outside of them.

Dallas Requests to State of Texas

- a. All 911 services in the State of Texas are paid for by fees charged on landline phones only. Dallas and other cities should request that cellphones be added to help staff and train 911 personnel.
- b. Information on illegal paper tags and what is being done.
- c. State help in purchasing more cameras.
- d. State help for costs of school crosswalk guards across the state.
- e. Let law enforcement officers see mental cases from national database of people they are trying to arrest.

A New 988 Mental Health Hotline is Live

People experiencing a mental health crisis can now simply call or text 988.

The new number is modeled after 911 to quickly connect people in a mental crisis with a mental health professional at a crisis center closest to them.

If that center is busy, the call gets sent to a back-up center.

City of Dallas Cost Share Sidewalk Replacement Program

The City partners with residents to share the cost 50/50 for existing residential sidewalk removal and replacement.

The property owner will pay 100% for the cost of driveway approach removal and replacement. The City pays for all other miscellaneous items including barrier free ramps.

Sidewalk removal and replacement are logged in by the date received.

From the initial inquiry it takes two to three months to assess the property and provide a quote by mail. From the time of payment it is approximately three (3) to nine (9) months to project completion, depending on demand.

You may access the program by calling 214-948-4127 or 214-948-4287.

Google Sidewalk Replacement Program for more information.

Looking for an Exercise Group and Social Contacts? Join the Emeritus Group at Dallas College

The Emeritus group is a vibrant group of adults, ages 55 and over, taking part in mat exercise classes, yoga, pickleball, and weight training at nearby Dallas College. This group also plans activities at concerts and plays, bowling, and field/road trips.

Dallas County residents who are 65 or older are eligible for a tuition exemption for up to 6 college credits per semester in any of the Dallas College campuses. That's six college credits free, each semester!

Grant Sisk, Senior Manager Special Academic Programs gSisk@dcccd.edu

Minnie Cornelius for registration assistance at: 972-238-6965 Mcornelius@dcccd.edu

dallascollege.edu/cd/senior-adults

CLASSIFIED ADS

Need pet care? Helen Meyer, 469-387-6094 (feature writer for newsletter). Neighborhood dogs & kitties give great reviews on the loving & watchful care! References Available

Reduce pain and inflammation, increase relaxation and circulation. Non-invasive medical device works through your hand FDA cleared

Chuck Laughlin claughli@sbcglobal.net 214-906-2012

https://AvacenMedical.com/Laughlin for free demo



Classified Ad Information

This is a service for WHNA members.

Email information to: WHNAnewsletter@whnadallas.com

Member's Name
<u>Address</u>
<u>Email</u>
Ad CopyPlease limit to 25 words or less. No graphics.

It's Garage Sale Season Check QR Code or Website for Requirements

dallascityhall.com/departments/codecompliance/Pages/garage -sales.aspx

Basics

- Permit from City is required
- There is a limit of two (2) garage sales at a premise during any twelve (12) month period (NOT

by calendar year) and each sale may not exceed more than three (3) consecutive calendar days in length.





PICK-UP WEEKS BEGIN:

August 22 and September 25

Set out on curb beginning Thursday, August 18 and September 22 before 7am on the Monday of pick-up week.

> Separate bulky trash from brush. No glass or electronics

Get the entire 2022 schedule at: dallascityhall.com/departments/sanitation/Pages/ brush_and_bulky.aspx

Take These Items to the Chemical Collection Center at 11234 Plano Rd, Dallas 75243:

Cleaners & polishes Chemical products Aerosol sprays Computers & cell phones Fluorescent light tubes Batteries of all kinds

Paint & home repair products Automotive fluids & oil filters

Recycle ONLY These Items.

DON'T BAG! DON'T CRUSH!

Mixed Paper--newspaper, magazines. Junk mail paper should be postcard size or larger. No shredded paper.

Cardboard -- heavy (collapse cardboard boxes) and light (like cereal boxes) Remove the greasy side of pizza boxes.

Cartons--juice, milk etc. No larger than a gallon

Metal cans--aluminum, tin and steel--cans only

Glass bottles and jars

Plastic containers--with recycle emblem 1-7

If in doubt, throw it out.

A quick rinse will do, you don't need to spend a lot of time and water washing containers.

Keep plastic lids on the container. Metal lids can be put into the bin separately. Magnets will pick them out.

In case you are not aware, our \$50.00 dues are the main source of income for WHNA. (That's \$.14/day; \$.96/week; \$4.17/month.) Dues enable us to pay for recurring expenses including security, common area maintenance, newsletter, social events, and other miscellaneous items.



2022 WHNA Membership Form



2022.JA.NL

Address:					
Addi C33.					
<u> </u>		<person 1<="" td=""><td></td><td>Person 2></td><td></td></person>		Person 2>	
		Home/Cell	Phone	Home/Cell	
		Please indicate ij	f number is h	ome or cell number.	
SHOULD HAVE HELVELY		THE RESERVE THE PROPERTY OF	eMail	Name and Administration of the Contract of the	
	eMail address w	ill be added to the en	nail blast syst	em for community meetin	ngs and events.
Dues:	\$50		Δ	dditional Donation	:
(ta	ax deductible)				(tax deductible)
☐ Volunteer Cri ☐ Distributing n ☐ Judging Yard	your interest in helping me Patroller	ng phone calls s Pet Registry Lights Workin	Attending D	Pallas civic and governm ng at neighborhood soc	ial events

For PayPal/Venmo, go to www.whnadallas.com

2022 Membership Period—January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022 Payments after October 1, 2022, apply to 2023 Membership.