

Whispering Hills News

A Community of Neighbors

Serving the Residents of the Whispering Hills Neighborhood

DECEMBER 2023

Working to "Light Up the Hills"

By Helen Meyer, WHNA News Feature Writer

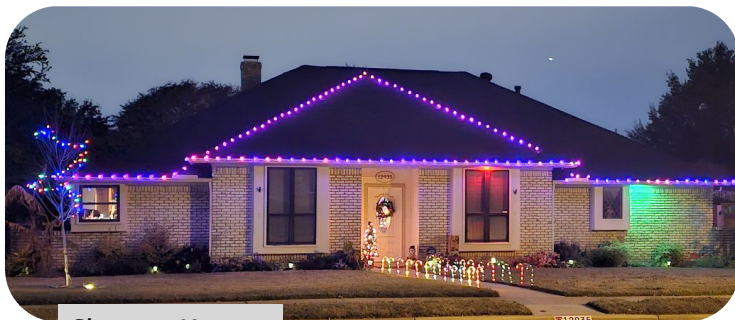


David Shannon moved to Whispering Hills three years ago from the south Lake Highlands area and brought his love of their holiday traditions with him. On various holidays, neighbors would band together and put lights on their houses at Christmas, flags in their yards on national holidays, tables outside their houses on Halloween for greeting children and parents...fun things that gave the neighborhood an extra special feel.

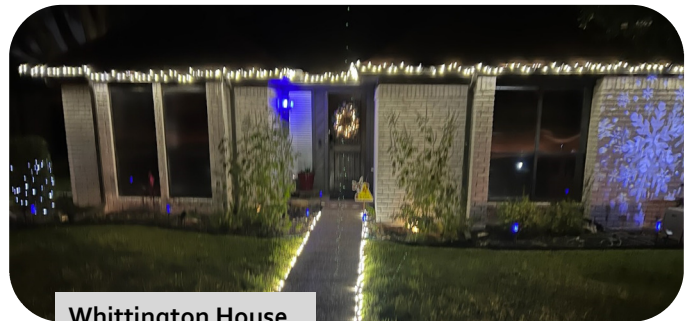
This year he began thinking, "Why not start these holiday traditions in Whispering Hills?" So this past Halloween he put out a table in his front yard and sat there with long-time WH resident and neighbor, Greg Whittington, offering candy for the kids and wine for the parents. He said over 100 families came by and it was wonderful to meet so many neighbors that way.

It was then that he and Greg decided their entire block of Whispering Hills from Chisholm down to Lawler, needed to be lit up with Christmas and holiday lights. So they talked with all of their neighbors and everyone agreed. The next Saturday, they spent several hours on their ladders with clips, lights and staple guns helping accomplish the task.

All the lights are on a timer from dusk until dawn and it is so nice to see them on the main street of our neighborhood. They are hoping many other neighbors from the north to the south end of Whispering Hills and throughout the neighborhood will be motivated to join in to "light up the Hills!"



Shannon House



Whittington House

WHNA Board & Committee Chairs

NEXTDOOR NETWORK:

nextdoor.com

WEBSITE:

www.whnadallas.com

WHNA MAILING ADDRESS:

10323 Cimmaron Trail
Dallas, TX. 75243

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What Goes On at Community Meetings?

If you have ever wondered what goes on at Community Meetings, following is a sampling of some of the agenda items discussed in the past. Attendance has increased since the meetings are now being held in person at Liberty Jr. high instead of on Zoom.

The meetings start, of course with the usual reading and approval of minutes from the previous meeting. The treasurer's report is given by Cynthia Houck, and Mike Gorman presents his monthly crime report. A summary of his report through November is included on page 5. The report is usually followed by discussion of some of the incidents.

In October, Alan Ravkind, Ground and Improvements chair, reported that the broken sections of the wall at the end of Lawler had been repaired for \$250. The total expenses for the committee through November were \$1806 which also included mowing of some areas and plantings at the south end.

Cynthia shares weekly updates on the number of members that have joined WHNA. The Whispering Hills Family group is beginning to show interest in getting more involved in planning social events.

At the November meeting, Liberty principal, Irene Aquilar introduced herself and spoke a bit about goings on at the school. There was also a speaker from the Dallas Public Library putting in a plug about the survey described on page 4.

Discussion time centered on the formation of a Social Committee following the stepping down of the current committee chair, Paulette Standefer.

Issues also discussed at meetings may include:

How to get communication to neighbors out more widely

Repairs needing to be done

How to involve our culturally diverse neighbors

How to grow membership

Issues with Short Term Rentals

You don't need to be a WHNA member to attend Community Meetings. You just don't get to vote. You and your ideas for discussion are welcome.

**We want WHNA News to be about you
and neighborhood news you have to share.**

**Send your ideas and/or input to
WHNAnewsletter@whnadallas.com**

Raffle to WIN **FREE GROCERIES**



New Membership and Renewals
Pay Annual Dues by 1/31/24
to be eligible

Pay your 2024 Annual dues of \$50 by 1/31/24 and
be entered into a drawing for a \$100 Kroger gift
card. The winner will be selected at February's
WHNA Meeting.

WHAT IS A NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

WHY JOIN?

A Neighborhood Association (NA) is a volunteer organization of
residents who work together to improve and maintain the quality of
life in their neighborhood. Associations can form out of concern over a
particular issue or as a means of enhancing a "sense of community."

<http://www.whnadallas.com>

Holiday Decoration Judging
The Judging Crew Will be Cruising
the Neighborhood the Weekend of
December 14-16 Looking for the Best
Lighting and Decorations.
Categories are: Best Religious, Best
Secular and Judges' Choice.
Be Sure Your Lights Are Turned On.

It's a Busy Time for Porch Pirates Be on the Look-out

There is porch piracy occurring all the time, but tis
the season for lots of opportunities. Video doorbells
can be a deterrent. Also consider having packages
sent to a secure location, such as an Amazon locker
or directly to a FedEx office. An article in the Dallas
Morning News said there are dozens of Amazon pick
-up locations scattered throughout DFW, including in
select 7-Eleven and Whole Foods stores. Google
Amazon pick-up locations to find one nearby for
your order.

NOTICE

**Auto pay through PayPal has been
added to the WHNA website to
use for paying membership dues.**
To subscribe, go to whnadallas.com.
**Then go to the bottom of the "Join
Now" page on the site.**

**Don't Know If Your WHNA Membership
is Up-to-Date?**

**Check with the Treasurer at
[WHNA treasurer@whnadallas.com](mailto:WHNA_treasurer@whnadallas.com)**

**You can also use the membership form on
the back page.**

WHNA Community Meetings

Usually held the 2nd Tuesday of the
month at 7:00 in the Liberty JH Library.

Any resident of Whispering Hills is
welcome to attend.

Enter at the east side of the building.

Announcements are sent through
Community Corner email, or you can
go to whnadallas.com for Information.

FREE SMOKE DETECTOR

Request FREE smoke
detectors for your home
from Dallas Fire Rescue by
calling 311.



Update Notes From Our D10 Council Member, Kathy Stewart

Let me bring you up to date on some of the meetings and events in the district.

The Park and Recreation and Dallas Water Utilities departments hosted a community meeting to provide an update on 12000 Greenville Avenue where the new Dallas Water Utilities Service (DWU) Center will be constructed. The design is complete, and construction is estimated to begin in 2024, once permitting is complete.

The Neighborhood Drainage Services and Wastewater Collection divisions responsible for providing essential wastewater and stormwater services 24 hours a day, seven days a week will office at the new DWU Service Center. These DWU divisions are responsible for enhancing the operation, maintenance, and repair of critical infrastructure for the Dallas North and East sectors.

DWU staff also informed the community that it is partnering with Dallas Park and Recreation, Dallas

City Council and the community to designate an area on the site for public use. This will facilitate the future construction of a community facility with pickleball courts. The project is in early planning stages and is dependent on funding through the operating and bond programs for parks purposes.

District 10 welcomes the new Parkland Primary Care Clinic to the northwest corner of the Richland College Campus. The project received necessary zoning approvals from the City Council and can now move forward. The Parkland Health & Hospital System operates 16 clinics throughout Dallas. We will share more information on this project soon – for example, it has plans to engage the students at Richland College beyond just providing them great access to healthcare.

Join Lake Highlands PID for Holiday on Forest, Saturday December 16th. There will be toys and many free and fun activities for all ages.

Update on STRs from TX Senator, Nathan Johnson, District 16

Historically, the regulation of short-term rentals has been the province of local government. A host of bills were proposed in the 88th regular legislative session relating to the regulation of short-term rentals, including some that would allow the state to overrule cities on short-term rental rules. None passed.

The fate of short-term rental regulation became uncertain last session, however, when the Legislature passed House Bill (HB) 2127. That bill – now law – bars cities and counties from passing ordinances relating to matters governed by Labor, Property, and Local Government Codes. It affects a range of matters historically governed at the local level, including payday lending, water breaks for construction workers, fair hiring practices, animal-related businesses, and many more.

The preemptive effect of HB 2127 was unknowable when it was introduced, unknowable when it passed, and it can only be determined on a case-by-case basis as a multitude of issues concerning municipal governance fall to the courts. It's an issue of debate whether super-preemption legislation will apply to short-term rentals.

The Dallas Public Library Seeks Community Input

The Dallas Public Library is collecting input, ideas and feedback from community members to help inform the creation of a strategic and facilities plan for the future of the library. We are asking a variety of questions about residents' relationship to the library and how the library can evolve to support community needs in the future.

How can I participate?

- **Community Survey**

Answer the online community survey to share your library interests and needs. Scan the QR code on the right to access the survey or go to:

<https://www.surveymhero.com/c/DPLCommunitySurvey>



- **Feedback Stations in Libraries**

Two questions are posted on the station each month. Write your thoughts on the paper tags and hang them on the pegboard. Come back each month to answer the new questions.

- **Phone**

You can also provide feedback by calling or texting (214) 814-2936. Keep up with Dallas Public Library's strategic and facilities plan process at:

<http://dallaslibrary2.org/strategicdirection/>

Neighborhood 2023 Crime Incidents Down Almost 30% from 2022

These statistics are based on information Mike Gorman, WHNA VIP Coordinator, has gathered over the year. He says. "That is great news that should make residents feel better about the neighborhood. I would think the result is due to our joint efforts." Mike and the crew of Crime Watchers, along with watchful neighbors, have done a great job keeping an eye on things.

Incident Type	2022	2023	Change
Assault - Aggravated	2	0	-2
Assault	6	0	-6
Break-in Motor Vehicle	7	10	3
Burglary of Residence	0	3	3
Criminal Mischief	4	12	8
Dog Bite	3	0	-3
Domestic Violence	1	2	1
Drug Activity	2	3	1
Firearm Injury	1	0	-1
Found Property	6	1	-5
Graffiti	1	1	0
Illegal Parking	3	0	-3
Illegal Dumping	1	1	0
Loud Noise	2	1	-1
Mail Theft	5	0	-5
Major Accident	0	2	2
Major Disturbance	0	1	1
Package Theft	4	1	-3
Police Activity Call - Unknown	2	11	9
Property Damage - Park	0	2	2
Property Damage	1	1	0
Property Theft - Auto Parts	1	1	0
Property Theft - House	6	5	-1
Prowler	3	4	1
Random Gunfire / Fireworks	19	5	-14
Robbery - Aggravated	1	0	-1
Security Wall Damage	1	1	0
Short Term Rental Complaints	8	7	-1
Solicitors	2	0	-2
Student Assault/Harrassment	2	1	-1
Suspicious Activity	3	5	2
Suspicious Persons	37	11	-26
Suspicious Vehicle	5	4	-1
Unauthorized Use of Vehicle	1	2	1
Vehicle Theft		1	1
Vehicle Wreck - Hit and Run	5	4	-1
Total Reports 2022 vs 2023	1	1	0
	146	104	-42

DALLAS POLICE ONLINE REPORTING SYSTEM



**Non-emergency reports
must be filed online!**

**NO WAIT TIME!
EASY! QUICK!**

ONLINE REPORTING

Accident Reports - Harassing Phone Calls
Burglary of a Motor Vehicle - Graffiti
Theft - Credit/Debit Card Abuse
Criminal Mischief - Reckless Damage
Identity Theft - Lost Property
Theft of Service - Burglary of a Coin Machine
Shoplifting - Interference with Child Custody

*The investigative process is the same as if an officer
took the report at the incident scene.*

DPD Online Reporting for Non-Priority 1 or 2
calls became mandatory as of 7/1/23
(dallaspolice.net)

Reasons to Still call 911:

Medical Emergency

Witnessing a Crime in Progress

When Criminal is still present

For special service requests, use
dallascrm.force.com/public/servicetypes
to help you contact the correct department.

**After you make a report to DPD, send Mike
Gorman an email (do not call) at
WHNAvipcoordinator @whnadallas.com**

**In your report, include what aroused your
suspicion, along with date, time, and location
where the incident occurred.**

FYI:

The lights at the pickleball courts and
along the new trail at Friendship Park
are both set to go on at
5:00 to 10:30P.M. and at 5:00-7:30A.M.

The pickle ball courts have been coated
and markings have been painted, but no
nets have been installed. The utility pole
at the entrance to the parking lot still
needs to be moved.

About Classified Ads

This is a service for resident WHNA members.

Send name, address, phone, and email, along with ad copy, to: WHNAnewsletter@whnadallas.com

Limit ad copy to 25 words or less. No graphics.

Whispering Hills Buy Nothing

Join on Facebook and search for
**Buy Nothing NE Dallas - North Lake Highlands/
Whispering Hills**

Learn more about Buy Nothing here:

www.buynothingproject.org/about

No charge, no membership fee.

Whispering Hills Family Group

Search Whispering Hills Families on Facebook and request to join.

The group is "private" for safety reasons.

Mental Health Hotline

Call 988

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.

Check QR Code or Website for Garage Sale Requirements

[dallascityhall.com/departments/codecompliance/
Pages/garage-sales.aspx](http://dallascityhall.com/departments/codecompliance/Pages/garage-sales.aspx)

Basics



- Permit from Code is required. Libraries are no longer issuing them.
 - 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 days in length.
 - Signs must be placed on private property; Signs placed on medians, public property or utility poles are illegal.
 - Signs must be removed within 24 hours of sale.
- 1st Garage Sale -No Fee
2nd Garage Sale -\$25.00 (No Cash)

CLASSIFIED ADS

KNIFE SHARPENING

Kitchen, utility, hunting knives

\$2 each Straight edges only

Text or call 214-929-7531

Need pet care?

Neighborhood dogs & kitties give great reviews on the loving & watchful care!

References Available

Helen Meyer, 469-387-6094

(feature writer for newsletter).

Joshua Pool - Your Realtor Neighbor

Offering representation with listing/purchasing residential property.

Free Comparative Market Analysis to support a tax protest

Call/Email - #972-978-7701 JPool@kw.com

Greetings as your dedicated local

Realtor and Lender,

serving within the heart of our beloved
Whispering Hills community.

Art & Lucy Trejo

Lucy.Trejo@Fairwaymc.com 214-803-1806

Tamales by Blanca

Chicken in green sauce or pork in red sauce; homemade with quality ingredients.

\$16 a dozen with hot sauce.

Please text Blanca at 409-392-8416

Wendy Phynes-Jennings

Mary Kay Independent Beauty Consultant Star Team Builder

Inspiring Women's Lives--I bring beauty to you.

Website: marykay.com/wendyphynesjennings

Email: wendyphynes12@gmail.com

972-679-0570

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Brad McWilliams 469-907-6287

Fun Stuff Holiday Riddles

Where does Christmas come before Thanksgiving?
In the dictionary

What do you call Santa when he goes down a chimney with a fire at the bottom?
Krisp Cringle

Why didn't the skeleton go to the Christmas party?
He had no-body to go with.

What kind of pictures do elves take?
Elfies

Why is Santa so good at karate?
Because he has a black belt.

What do elves learn in school?
The elf-abet!

Why didn't the stocking eat Christmas dinner?
He was stuffed!

What did Adam say the day before Christmas?
"It's Christmas, Eve."

Wondering Who that Feather Came From? Try this Fascinating Feather ID Tool

THE FEATHER ATLAS is an image database dedicated to the identification and study of the flight feathers of North American birds. The feathers illustrated are from the curated collection of the National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory.

So, next time you're curious about a feather you find, try this free tool:

fws.gov/lab/featheratlas/— no app needed.

When you find feathers in nature, feel free to admire and photograph them, but leave them where you find them. Under federal law, it's illegal to possess North American bird feathers.

From Our Wild Texas from TPW (Texas Parks and Wildlife). To find more fun information google Our Wild Texas.

Some Religious and Non-religious Holidays Celebrated in December

Christmas is the Christian celebration of the birth of Jesus of Nazareth on December 25th. It is preceded by Advent, a four-week season dedicated to anticipating the arrival, or "advent," of Jesus, the long-awaited Messiah and King. It is a season of candlelight, reflection, and expectation—a chance to get ready for Christmas. Christians from many backgrounds celebrate this time with reflections on hope, peace, love, and joy.

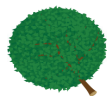
Hanukkah, or Chanukah, began at sundown on Thursday, December 7, 2023, and will end the evening of Friday, December 15, 2023 (8 nights). Hanukkah means "dedication" and is a holiday that honors and celebrates one of the first recorded fights for religious freedom and the success of this fight by Jews.

Ashura is celebrated by Muslims on December 5. Sunnis, the largest group of Muslims, remember that the Prophet Mohammad fasted in solidarity with Jews who were observing Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. Shiites recall the death of Mohammad's grandson in battle, an event that led to their differences with the Sunnis. It is considered a day of mourning.

Bodhi Day, December 8th, is the Buddhist holiday that commemorates the day that Gautama Buddha (Shakyamuni) is said to have attained enlightenment, also known as bodhi in Sanskrit and Pali. Themes of the holiday include sharing; leadership; caring for others; self-sacrifice.

Kwanza, or Kwanzaa, is not a religious holiday, it's a cultural one celebrating the seven basic values of African culture or the "Nguzo Saba" which in Swahili means the seven principles. People from all different religious backgrounds — including African spiritual traditions — celebrate the holiday from December 26th through January 1st. The seven principals are: unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith.

Yule is usually celebrated on the Winter Solstice, at least in the northern hemisphere. Many of its pagan traditions have been absorbed into December celebrations as part of what is commonly called Yuletide. Pagan Yuletide represents the rebirth of the Sun God. In essence, it is the symbolic end of the cold and dark winter and the return of light.



BRUSH & BULK



To avoid a Code citation, watch for signs posted on Whispering Hills on the Thursday before pick-up week.

NEXT PICK-UP WEEKS BEGIN:

December 25 and January 22

Set trash out on curb beginning Thursdays, December 21 and January 18 before 7am on the Monday of pick-up week.

Separate bulky trash from brush.

No glass or electronics

Get the 2024 schedule and reminder texts at: dallascityhall.com/sanitation

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

Chemical products	Cleaners & polishes
Aerosol sprays	Computers & cell phones
Batteries of <u>all</u> kinds	Fluorescent light tubes
Paint & home repair products	
Automotive fluids & oil filters	

Call 214-553-1765 for hours of operation.

What Goes into the Blue Bin?

No Garbage or Yard Debris

Only These Items

(Do Not Put Items in Plastic Trash Bags)

Glass Bottles and Jars--NO window glass, light bulbs, fluorescent tubes, ceramics, mirrors or Pyrex

Plastics--containers (rinsed) labelled #1-5 & 7 (found at the base of the container in the recycling emblem) **NO** plastic grocery bags (take those to the store), plastic wrap, plastic utensils, chemical containers or Styrofoam

Metals--steel, tin and aluminum (**cans**) **NO** foil or foil containers used for baking; no electronics or toys

Paper Products and Cardboard--newspapers, books (both paper and hardback) magazines, catalogs, envelopes, food and detergent boxes, paper egg cartons, 1-pack drink cartons, cereal boxes, folded corrugated and cardboard boxes; **NO** food contaminated boxes or plastic or foil-lined boxes or shredded paper

Order new or replacement roll carts at: dallascityhall.com/departments/sanitation



2024 WHNA Membership Form

2023.ND.NL



Name(s): _____

Address: _____

<Person 1

Person 2>

Home/Cell

Phone

Home/Cell

Please indicate if number is home or cell number.

eMail

eMail address will be added to the email blast system for community meetings and events.

Dues: **\$50**
(tax deductible)

Additional Donation: _____
(tax deductible)

I would like my information to be included in the 2024 membership directory (circle one):
YES NO

Please indicate your interest in helping in one or more of the following ways:

- ☐ Volunteer Crime Patroller ☐ Making phone calls ☐ Attending Dallas civic and government meetings
☐ Distributing newsletters or directories ☐ Pet Registry ☐ Helping at neighborhood social events
☐ Judging Yard of the Month/Christmas Lights ☐ Working your street/block for the membership drive
☐ Serving on the Board or committee ☐ Other

Send check (made payable to WHNA) to WHNA at 10323 Cimmaron Trail, Dallas, TX 75243.

For PayPal/Venmo go to www.whnadallas.com

2024 Membership Period—January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024