

White Rock Valley Neighborhood Association

Volume 11, Issue 4

October, November, December 2010

President's Message

I would like to start this article by recognizing Laurie Bubel for her many years of service as the treasurer of the WRVNA. Laurie has decided to step down from the board starting in 2011. Laurie has selflessly given of her time to make sure the bills are paid and the committee chairpersons are keeping to their budget in addition to many other tasks that I don't have to worry about. Her dedication to the neighborhood is very much appreciated and she will be missed as a member of the board. Please join me in thanking her for her service on the board

and her unending service to the neighborhood.

In the last issue of the newsletter I gave an update on a lot of activity we have been seeing in the neighborhood. The activity continues and we have more updates to pass along.

Lake Highlands Plaza Redevelopment ♦♦♦

The property is SOLD! What a roller coaster ride the summer was for this high profile property. It started with four different groups interested in the property. In the end a local group of real estate investors headed up by Jim Christon of the Christon Company won out and

purchased the property. Jim Christon is no stranger to Lake Highlands, his company also redeveloped the Northlake Shopping Center and Lowes on NW Highway and the Walgreens that is in the same intersection as Lake Highlands Plaza. Plans are still being finalized, but we should see demolition starting sometime in early 2011. The plan is to demolish the majority of the retail space and build 20 new homes on standard size lots.

White Rock Valley Park - Shade Structure ♦♦♦

We have made progress with the shade structure and have reviewed drawings with the parks department. I will be providing more information on this during our general meeting on November

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When Good Men Do Nothing

By Dana Kimbrough

The White Rock Valley Neighborhood Association is bound by the by-laws to be non-political, and I would be the last person to try to tell anyone how to vote. I'm having enough trouble trying to make that decision for myself. However, I must say that I believe that voting is required if you plan to complain, comment or praise the people that are elected to political office. If you don't vote, I believe you are honor bound to sit silently without comment, whatever the outcome. (The last two sentences reflect my personal opinion, and are not part of the official by-laws of WRVNA).

If you vote a 'straight ticket' for any party, that's not too difficult. Check one box, and you are finished. But, I usually don't opt for the easy way out. This year I decided to actually research the candidates and make an informed decision. I tried to find the actual ballot online to see who was running for the various offices before I began my research. You can secure the exact ballot you will fill out by going to the website of League of Women Voters - <http://www.lwvdallas.org/index.html>; click on the Nov 2, 2010 election information and you will see the dates for early voting etc., and when you scroll on down, there is a place to 'find your voting place'. Here

you enter your name and birth date to find where you are to vote on election day and there is an option to open a PDF file of the sample ballot. Now you know whom to research. Guys may also enter their names to receive the information. I looked for, and did not find a league of men voters, sorry.

The LWV, on their website state they are a nonpartisan political organization encouraging informed and active participation in government. It influences public policy through education and advocacy. There is a lot in information there, including a response from some of the candidates to a list of questions the LWV sent out. Also you can visit the website of each of the four identified political parties listed here:

REPUBLICAN PARTY - <http://www.texasgop.org>,
 DEMOCRATIC PARTY - <http://www.txdemocrats.org>,
 LIBERTARIAN PARTY - <http://www.tx.lp.org>, &
 GREEN PARTY - <http://txgreens.org/drupal/>

Voter information is now

available on VOTEXAS.org, a service of the Texas Secretary of State. This site lists all the candidates for the entire state of Texas. But, with the sample ballot you secured above, you can identify the person you are interested in finding more information about, and see if there is opposition for that position, and who is the incumbent, if that is important to you.

Then, there is always the endless parade of ads on TV. If you can look directly in their eye, and tell what is true, and what is not, then my hat is off to you.

If by now you are thinking this is not worth the effort required, I urge you to hang in there. It is worth it. We become complaisant because we are accustomed to living in a great free country, a state deep in history and traditions, and a city that also has a wonderful history and is the 'destination' city for families on vacations, and looking for a place to put down roots. Our little corner of Dallas known as Lake Highlands is the perfect place to bring up families and live even after children are grown. *'All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing.'* ***Edmund Burke*** Irish orator,

Cub Scouts: For Friends, For Fun, For You

Cub Scout Pack 891 wants everyone in WRVNA to know we all started our 50th year of scouting happy, healthy and strong.

We ended our summer activities with a recycling service project at National Night Out, running around with blue bags picking up as much plastic as we could find. This fall, 10 new scouts and their families joined our pack, making us about 40 strong. We graduated 10 Cub Scouts into Boy Scouts and are

prepping 14 more that will crossover in March. Our fall family campout at Cooper Lake State Park was great, with Grandpas to little sisters a great weekend. Thank you all who supported "Poptober," our annual popcorn sale and fundraiser.

If you're interested in bringing a group into scouting or have a calling to lead and support a youth organization, Please contact me for details: Rick Estrada 214-221-1636 or rickestrada868@hotmail.com.

Lake Highlands Women's League Presents

TOUR OF HOMES

Friday, December 3, 2010

9:30 am to 5 pm

HOLIDAY MARKET

9:30 am to 2:30 pm

Highland Oaks Church of Christ

LUNCHEON

11 am to 1:30 pm

(ticket required for all events)

WRVNA Directory Update

Time is really flying and the time to print the 2011 WRVNA Directory is just around the corner. I'm sure you realize many hours go into the preparation of each edition. It is our goal to have the most up to date, correct information as we go to print. To make this happen, we depend on you to contact us if your current (2010

Directory) information is incorrect due to error, or changes you have made since it was printed. Please e-mail your corrections or additions to WRVNA@yahoo.com. We print the updates in the quarterly newsletter, and pass all information on to Deborah Whittington to include in the 2011 WRVNA Directory. The

one update for this issue is listed below:

Please update the phone number for:

Scott & Julie Peek
9230 Cliffmere Dr.
214.343.2262

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President's Message

8th.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the General Meeting on November 8th. The new Dallas Police chief of the NE

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Sub-station, Deputy Chief

Gloria Perez, will be at the meeting to make a few remarks and take your questions. In addition we will be electing our 2011 officers, see slate of officers and committee chairpersons in this issue of the newsletter, and approving the 2011 budget. I

am working on some additional speakers and will send an e-mail out through Bruce Bowles e-mail distribution list with the final agenda. If you're not on his distribution list please e-mail him at **bwbowles@sbcglobal.net** to get on the list. Not only does he keep us up-to-date on crime in the neighborhood he also sends

Garage Sale Permit Required

Effective October 1, 2010 a Garage Sale Permit is required *Before* conducting a garage sale. You can get a permit any time prior to conducting your garage sale. You must have documentation of your permit during your garage sale event. You are subject to a citation if you are unable to produce documentation. The fee is \$15. You can get a permit at 7901 Goforth Rd., Dallas, TX 75238, Monday thru Friday, 8:00am - 4:30pm . There are other locations and more will be added after November 1, 2010.

You are permitted no more than two garage sales in a twelve month period, and the sale can be no longer than three consecutive calendar days. You cannot place more than one sign, not to exceed two square feet, upon the lot where the sale is taking place. Any other signs at any locations remote from the sale property are not permitted. The sale must be inside the building or garage, or on the patio of the premises.

There are additional specific

rules for garage and estate sales. They are listed under code compliance on the City of Dallas Website. <http://www.dallascityhall.com>.

There is a bonus that comes with this new fee and regulation. The city of Dallas provides a website to advertise your sale. At the time you purchase your permit you can add your location to the website or you may list your sale on the following web link. <http://garagesale.dallascityhall.com/SearchResults.jsp>. Your water account number & zip code is required to add your sale to this site.

Your address is listed with a

link to Google Map for location, along with the dates and times of the sale. If you choose you can list your e-mail and phone number, and a general description of the items for sale in your garage sale. This list is pretty extensive, and is probably a list you can check off as is appropriate for you.

When one visits the site to locate a garage sale, you can search by zip code or date. The date calendar was not working when I checked the site, but this is early days yet. You can also check the item you are particularly searching for or check 'all' to see all the sales listed on the date selected or in the zip you choose. There were not a lot of sales listed, but as this is the first month, it may take a while to catch on.

To comparison shop, a basic four line ad in the Dallas Morning News costs \$29.95, according to their website. If you need to purchase poster board, markers and wood stakes to make signs, don't forget to figure the price for your time to make, place and retrieve your signs. And you might want to add in the fine because they will be cracking

Dorsey ad & Dana's ad

Paid Advertising

White Rock Valley Financial Statement as of September 30, 2010

	<u>Jan - Dec 10</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>
Income			
Advertising	100.00	600.00	-500.00
Donations	50.00		
Dues			
Family	10,725.00	13,710.00	-2,985.00
Individual	1,349.50	1,500.00	-150.50
Total Dues	12,074.50	15,210.00	-3,135.50
ENP Contributions	37,209.58	36,500.00	709.58
Interest	17.14	400.00	-382.86
Total Income	49,451.22	52,710.00	-3,258.78
Expense			
Committee Expenses			
Beautification Maintenance	1,178.81	3,000.00	-1,821.19
Beautification Projects	0.00	700.00	-700.00
Communications-Signs	239.00	500.00	-261.00
Membership Solicitation			
Paypal Fees	50.76		
Membership Solicitation - Other	1,309.14	1,100.00	209.14
Total Membership Solicitation	1,359.90	1,100.00	259.90
Newcomer	0.00	350.00	-350.00
Social Events	3,867.00	4,000.00	-133.00
Special Event / Garden tour	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00
VIP	0.00	150.00	-150.00
Total Committee Expenses	6,644.71	10,800.00	-4,155.29
ENP			
ENP Notices	0.00	500.00	-500.00
Patrolmen	22,330.00	30,000.00	-7,670.00
Police Car	4,179.83	6,000.00	-1,820.17
Total ENP	26,509.83	36,500.00	-9,990.17
General			
Community Donations	1,000.00	500.00	500.00
Insurance	510.00	510.00	0.00
Meetings	184.16	50.00	134.16
Membership Dues	100.00	100.00	0.00
Misc. Exp.	0.00	100.00	-100.00
Newsletter	2,053.86	3,000.00	-946.14
Website	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00
Total General	3,848.02	5,260.00	-1,411.98
Prior YR disbursement	2,500.00		
Treasurer			
Bank Supplies & Charges	29.00	50.00	-21.00
Postage and Delivery	285.78	100.00	185.78
Total Treasurer	314.78	150.00	164.78
Total Expense	39,817.34	52,710.00	-12,892.66
Net Income	9,633.88	0.00	9,633.88

First Time VIP Patrol

I have just completed the special VIP training organized by Chris Bellew and Bruce Bowles, and look forward to the last portion, the tour of the 911 location downtown. My first patrol was on August 20th and started at 9 o'clock am. I was picked-up at my door in a car with the very recognizable blinking gold light. I had the good fortune to have my first patrol and hands-on experience with Julie Noble, a veteran VIP member. She is very familiar with the WRV neighborhood as she and her family have lived her for many years, and she is acquainted with the alleys and out-of-the way places because of the years she has volunteered in VIP patrols. We covered the area of WRV which contains about 1350 homes plus additional businesses in about two hours.

The primary problem was with garage doors standing open; such an invitation to theft from the garage, and worse, an entry into the home through the connecting door.

The standard procedure was to

call the home owner to alert them of the problem. We had a cell phone, of course, but also a WRVNA Directory which lists by name and also by street address. I also had a record sheet to note the time, location, and type of problem as well as the resolution. My half page list was almost filled by the end of our patrol.

One of the problems I encountered immediately; I didn't know where I was. It is easy to become confused as to the names of the streets on either side of the ally one is driving in. Even Julie had to sometimes drive to the intersection of the alley with street to verify the correct street to lookup the homeowner's phone number. Most, but not all, homes have their street addressed on the garage or fence. Most do not list the street, which would be very helpful.

The second problem we encountered was phone numbers that were not answered (a message was left regarding the open door), or

phones no longer in service or not listed by homeowner's choice in the directory. We were left with no way to notify them of the potential danger to their property. One number we called was the referred number when we called the one in the directory. The original owner had moved out of the neighborhood, and was very surprised to hear the garage door was left open, as the new owner had expressed the opinion they were moving from a much more crime prevalent neighborhood. I certainly hope our new neighbors don't feel too comfortable and become careless.

My second tour of duty was a night-time schedule with Marcel Quimby. The darkness made it harder to see numbers and addresses, because, yes again, there were garage doors left open. On this patrol, we utilized a couple of additional aids. We consulted a printed map of the streets and alleys in the WRVNA area as we patrolled, and we had a GPS that told us where we were. We had an app for that! We continued to call the homeowner to report open garage doors, and again encountered phone numbers no longer in service, or unlisted at the owners choice.

Volunteers are the heavy-lifters

(Continued on page 7)

Veteran VIP Volunteers	Veteran VIP Volunteers	Rookie VIP Volunteers
Bill Ballinger Jane Clarke Noble Cross David Dohnalk Bill Goode Carol Hooten Mike Meripolski Jon Mooney Julie Noble Marcel Quimby Wince Reynolds Keith Wixtrom Lloyd Marquiz Howard Riggs (inactive)	Bruce Bowles Bill Cox Rudy DeLaSiena Fred Fels Owen Hooten Jason Howlett Scott Miller John Moore Mile Noble Rob Reed Jason Thomas Kyle Libby Harry McBriety Dee Thomi (inactive)	Chris Bellew Michael Clarke David Dohnalik Billy Dorsey Sarah Dorsey Erich Ephraim (moved from another area) Bruce Gregg Gerri Gregg Randy Huntress Ames Hutton Dana Kimbrough Anita Pittman David Wright

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in most of the community services provided by non-profits like WRVNA. They have stepped forward to give of time and effort, in addition to their money, to insure our neighborhood continues to

White Rock Elementary Up-Date

White Rock Elementary and the WRE PTA recently hosted a well attended school tour. If you were interested in the tour, but missed it, (or didn't even know about it) you will have another opportunity to roam the halls. Tours will be given once a month to parents interested in learning more about our wonderful neighborhood school. For more information on

dates and times and to sign up for a tour, call the White Rock Elementary office at 469-593-2700.

The White Rock Elementary Dads' Club has also been busy with their ongoing grounds improvement project. You have probably noticed the grading, irrigating and hydro mulching of the WRE field adjacent to Chiswell Dr. As funds allow, you will be seeing more and more

progress. Remember, there are several ways you can contribute to this project that is benefiting our whole community. WRE dads can help by joining the Dads' Club and WRE moms and neighbors can help by taking advantage of the Dads' Club Car Wash this November and in the spring. For more information or to make a donation, contact Scott Lacey at scott.lacey@slcastle.com.

White Rock Valley Association Newsletter

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2010 National Night Out

Once again, we are happy to report the 2010 WRVNA National Night Out was a great success, supporting our decision to continue scheduling in the month of August. As in years past, hundreds of neighbors attended in their usual enthusiastic fashion; greeting old friends and making new ones. A giant 'Thank You' to all the volunteers and everyone that supported this event. A special thanks to Billy & Sarah Dorsey and David & Suzanne Silva, Co-Chairs of National Night Out 2010.

We were so excited that WRNA's celebration drew the attention of a few VIPs' including Jerry Allen and Mayor Tom Leppert. We expect 2010 to continue the tradition of the biggest and best event

Proposed Slate of Officers and Chairpersons for WRVNA 2011

President	Chris Bellew
Vice President	Joe Hardin
Secretary	Kathy Stewart
Treasurer	Erich Ephraim
Beautification	Open
Crime Watch	Bruce Bowles
ENP	Ken & Rhonda Coutant
VIP	Jane Clarke
Newsletter	Dana Kimbrough
National Night Out	Billy & Sarah Dorsey
Welcome	Dara Dohnalik
Gov't Liaison	Doug Potts
LHAIA Liaison	Jason Thomas
Website	Glen Vance
PTA Liaison	Open

WRVNA GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY, NOV. 8, 7:30 PM

White Rock Elementary—9229 Chiswell @ Clearhurst

Program:

Speaker: Dallas Police Chief of the NE Sub-Station,
Deputy Chief Gloria Perez

Election of 2011 WRVNA Board