



May 2011 Newsletter

Preston Royal Library Update

Last night, the architects and project manager for the new Preston Royal Library, along with the Interim Manager of the Dallas Public Library, met with an overflow crowd of citizens at the library's current location. The presenters spent a little bit of time explaining the exterior design and timeline for the project and the rest of the time answering questions and addressing concerns. Following is a brief summary of some of the things that were discussed:

The most recent bond election approved funds for the property, which has been purchased, and for the design plans, but not for the actual construction. That must wait until the next bond election. The property consists of 3.4 acres and encompasses the area that previously sited the Korean Presbyterian Church on Forest Ln. between Nuestra and the Dallas Tollway. Demolition of the current building will be complete by the end of May.

The new library will have LEED's certification and will be over 18,000 sq. ft. (almost double the current size) with a 30 foot height limitation. There will be 90-100 parking spaces and a significant xeriscaping amenities package with some public space. Planners and the city are working closely with the adjacent neighborhood to reduce disruption during tear down and construction and to make certain that the property will be a community area that is well maintained and fits into the neighborhood.

It is expected that the library will not be open for another 2-5 years.

Ann Margolin said that all questions and concerns can be addressed to her. The planning is still in the "input" phase re: the goals and vision of this new building and comments and suggestions are welcome. In the future, there is expected to be a website that will offer timely updates on the status of the project.

The new library sounds wonderful and will have a significant budgeted allocation to "fill its' shelves" so we will have more selection and variety than our current location is able to offer. In the meantime, take a look at the Preston Royal library that has been a part of our community for so many years. Many community members came together to landscape the front of the building and it looks so inviting and attractive. We can enjoy that until the new one comes along!

Hillcrest Lacrosse Wins State Championship!!!



Hillcrest Lacrosse State Championship team

You've seen them practicing on the field at the corner of Lakehurst and Airline and in the stadium four or five times a week for the past 16 years. They are a group of young men from a dozen different schools who come together to play the sport they are passionate about. Several Meadows high school boys have played on this team over the years and now it is time to say congratulations to Hillcrest Lacrosse who took the DII State Championship title two weekends ago, defeating Clear Lake 13-11 in Houston. This is the team's first state championship.

Trevor Atkins (#10) made 7 Goals and won Overall MVP. Ward Weber (#0) had 15 saves and won Defensive MVP.

Before the state finals, coach Bill Elliott, a longtime Preston Hollow resident, was elected Texas High School Lacrosse League Coach of the Year. Elliott played lacrosse in college and was instrumental in not only forming the Hillcrest Lacrosse team, but in bringing lacrosse to North Texas. Congratulations, Hillcrest Lacrosse and Coach Elliott!

Franklin Middle School Update

Meadows resident and Franklin PTA President, Kaky Wakefield, reports that Mr. Parker has had a terrific first year as principal of FMS. He has seen TAKS scores in Reading and Math increase to 3rd in the district for regular Middle Schools and watched Franklin students compete in district and state academic and athletic competitions, always finishing strong. Recently, three students, Will Wakefield, Michael Wakefield, and Marshall Honaker, qualified in the State National History Day Competition in Austin where Will's documentary placed in the top 10.

Franklin wrapped up the year with its Athletic Banquet, the Lip Synch contest (see photo of winning group, KISS, below) and Awards days are scheduled for May 25-26. Last day of classes will be Thursday, June 2.

Holly Gentry from DISD recently announced that the Meadows Neighborhood Newsletter has been named a Community Partner with Franklin Middle School.



**KISS – winners of the Franklin Lip-Synch Contest
Coach Colley, Teacher Tom Mooney and students Will Wakefield and Basi)**

Preston Hollow Elementary School Principal Receives Award

David Chapasko, principal at Preston Hollow Elementary School has been designated the 2011 Dallas ISD Principal of the Year. Winners are chosen on the basis of their leadership skills and management effectiveness, parental and community involvement initiatives and for their professional relationship with students, parents, staff and community. The award comes with a \$2500 cash prize. In the four years since Chapasko has been at Preston Hollow, he has led his team and his school to an Exemplary rating from the Texas Education Agency and a long list of academic achievements. We are lucky to have such a fine school in our neighborhood!

Alley Clean-Up

We have had a glorious spring here in Dallas. Lawns are being mowed, flowers have been planted, lots of neighbors are enjoying their front and back yards. BUT, do you realize that you have a “third” yard on your property? Alley yard maintenance is one of those things that can that often be forgotten, as in “out of sight, out of mind”. Walk out back and take a few minutes to trim your bushes, mow the grass and clean up weeds and trash. If you have an elderly neighbor who is not able to do so and you have some free time on your hands, it would be wonderful to offer to help them to maintain their alley. We all thank you for helping to beautify the Meadows!

See Where Dallas Police Are Fighting Crime — Right Now

Want to see what type of crime-fighting activity is going on right at this very moment? Check out <http://www.dallasnews.com/news/crime/crime-map/> . It's an interactive map that shows where Dallas police are physically answering calls in Dallas as of the time you take a look at the map.

You'll see the address of the "incident", a very brief description about what's going on there, and Google mapping links giving you options for a satellite view and mapping to the destination.

Question of the Month

A Meadows neighbor recently wrote and said that while driving past the landscaped median on Boedeker, she was struck by how nice it looked and wondered who paid for the maintenance and how she could make a donation to assist with expenses. Your contributions help pay for the planting of flowers, weeding, water, sprinkler maintenance and insurance (yes, the City of Dallas requires that!). Maintenance for the median takes up a large percentage of our expenses and we rely on donations to pay for that. So if you would like to make a donation to the neighborhood to assist with those expenses, please send a check to Mark Backofen, Treasurer, at The Meadows Neighborhood Association, P.O. Box 12858, Dallas TX, 75225-0858. Thanks!!!

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, May 30, 2011 – Memorial Day – Honor those who have gone before us, especially those who have died in service to our country...

Monday, June 20, 2011 – Bulk trash pickup. Items can be placed on your curb as early as Thursday, June 16.

Wednesday, June 22, 2011 2:00-3:30pm. Preston Royal Library auditorium
Beauty Queens of Hollywood -- Dr. Jane Guzman, local historian/writer
Can fame, fortune and glamour guarantee happiness? Dr. Guzman will discuss the drama-filled lives of three of Hollywood's most beautiful actresses: Marilyn Monroe, Elizabeth Taylor and Rita Hayworth. Don't miss this opportunity to learn the details of the romances, marriages and movies that made them famous.

Can You Help a Deserving Hillcrest Student?

Brian Perez is a student at Hillcrest High School who is trying to raise funds to attend Young Life Christian camp from June 4-12. If there is anyone who in the neighborhood who could use the services of a nice young man to assist with yard work, cleaning out the garage, etc. within the next two weeks (after school or on the weekend), please give Brian a call at (972) 904-1528. Brian's supervising Young Life counselor says that Brian is a responsible young man who will do a good job for you. Brian does not charge a set hourly rate, but remember that he is trying to raise funds for his trip so please pay a minimum of \$8 an hour.

Help Wanted

Meadows neighbor needs a neighborhood student to help out while away on vacation to pick up mail, water plants and mow back yard. Will pay well. If interested, contact Gail Elmendorf at paulgail@swbell.net

The History of the Meadows

One of our neighbors, Roger Harris, is compiling information on the history of the Meadows neighborhood and its' first homeowners. I know that I have personally heard from several of our neighbors all kinds of fun things about the Meadows – that it was a “doctor and dentist” neighborhood (due to proximity to Presbyterian), that some neighbors kept horses on their property and that our neighborhood was on a Parade of Homes and was considered more prestigious than that to the west of Hillcrest. In addition, many of our original homeowners were some of the “movers and shakers” here in Dallas and it would be great to know more about them.

If you are an original owner of a Meadows home or the child of an original owner and you have some stories to tell, contact Roger at rwh.tx@sbcglobal.net Roger will collect the info and present it in a future issue of the newsletter. Thanks, Roger!! Great idea!!

There's No Place Like Home, but Vacations Are Wonderful

For those of you who love to dream of wonderful far-off places, here is a link that can help you to find the perfect summer vacation --
<http://travel.nationalgeographic.com/travel/best-trips-summer-2011-photos/>