



## September 2011 Newsletter

### **Fall in the Meadows**

I hope that all our Meadows neighbors are enjoying this glorious weather and the beginning of fall!! After hibernating inside for the past few months, signs and sounds of life are appearing all around the neighborhood – more joggers, more walkers, more people working in their yards, children playing outside, football games at Franklin Field stadium, the Hillcrest band practicing early in the mornings...everyone seems to have a spring in their step and a smile on their face. Enjoy this new season and, as you spend more time outside, take time to meet a new neighbor. You'll be glad you did!

### **Walnut Hill/ Central Development Update**

The development on Walnut Hill and Central appears to have some movement. A large leasing sign was recently installed at the Northwest intersection of Walnut Hill and Central Expressway. Eric Anderson, who serves on the Joint Task Force, recently had brief discussions with Linda Koop's office and Provident Realty Advisors (who will be co-developers on the site, along with Kroenke Holdings) to ascertain if there was any information that merited neighborhood communication. Based on those conversations, there is little to pass along at this time, other than the leasing sign that is serving the purpose of marketing for potential interest in the site. Additionally, the website for UCR that the signage ultimately directs you to has an outdated schematic for a possible site plan. As soon as we obtain any additional, relevant information, we will pass that along to Meadows neighbors.

### **Our Neighborhood Schools**

Hillcrest High School and Franklin Middle School are very much a part of the Meadows neighborhood. Each of these schools, along with Preston Hollow Elementary, the feeder school, has a website that allows Meadows neighbors to check out what is happening at each of these schools. Look for lots of photos, announcements, calendars, sports schedules, staff directory and important phone numbers. Visit them at...

<http://www.dallasisd.org/hillcrest>

<http://www.dallasisd.org/franklin>

<http://www.dallasisd.org/prestonhollow>

## **City of Dallas Budget info**

If you couldn't make it to any of last month's town hall budget meetings, check out this 18 minute video on the City of Dallas FY '11--'12 Budget Presentation.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=97VSN1Of15U&feature=player\\_embedded#](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=97VSN1Of15U&feature=player_embedded#)

Some of the items presented include:

- A property tax revenue reduction due to declining property values, accounting for more than \$65 million of lost revenue.
- 200 additional police and 200 firefighters to be hired.
- Anticipated slight increase in sales tax revenue.
- About 100 civilian employees are being laid off as the city works to streamline operations.
- The majority of the budget goes toward public safety.
- The water rate is expected to increase by about 6 percent.
- Ten percent reduction at cultural arts centers.
- Libraries and recreation centers are maintaining 40 hours per week but with cuts in staffing.

## **Gentle Reminder from the City of Dallas**

The City of Dallas retains the right to trim all vegetation (trees, shrubs, vines, etc.) that does not meet Code. If you are in violation, the City will either give you a citation or will just cut down the offending vegetation (and it isn't pretty when they do!). Dallas City Code requires that all vegetation be trimmed so as to not project across the property or into the right-of-way in the alley or onto the street or sidewalk. Trees, vines and shrubs must be kept a minimum height of at least 8 feet from the ground on the sidewalk and no less than 15 feet over the alley or the street. For further info, visit the City of Dallas website for a quick, easy summary of the requirements. [http://www.dallascityhall.com/code\\_compliance/Downloads/Obstructions.pdf](http://www.dallascityhall.com/code_compliance/Downloads/Obstructions.pdf)

## **Dallas Becomes First Major Texas City to Launch Carton Recycling**

The City of Dallas has launched a new effort to add food and beverage cartons as part of its residential curbside recycling program. Dallas will be the first major city in Texas to have a carton recycling program. Under the new initiative, residents will be able to place all empty cartons – such as milk and juice cartons, along with soup and broth, soy milk and wine cartons – in their blue recycling bins or community recycling drop off containers.

Last year, the City of Dallas recycled more than 50,000 tons of materials and is on track to recycle nearly 65,000 tons this year. Carton recycling will help the city toward their 31% diversion goal for the year. By increasing their recycling rate and coming up with innovative ways to increase waste diversion, the city saved \$1,185,260.21 of landfill space.

## **Montfort Bridge Partial Demolition This Weekend, Sept. 17-18**

Starting Saturday night, Montfort bridge will be temporarily closed this weekend to vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians, for demolition of the southbound side of the bridge. The bridge will reopen Sunday afternoon, with two lanes in each direction.

North Texas drivers are reminded that lanes along I-635 (LBJ) will be reduced and shifted significantly this weekend – Saturday night through Sunday evening.

(NOTE TO DRIVERS: We recommend you avoid Montfort/I-635 intersection, if at all possible, between 7:00 PM Saturday, Sept. 17 and 12:00 NOON on Sunday, Sept. 18.)

To sign up for e-Alerts re: the LBJ construction, visit [www.lbjexpress.com](http://www.lbjexpress.com)

## **Spec's Liquor Store to Occupy 'Toys R Us' space**

Houston-based liquor store, Spec's, is building its first store in the Dallas market, and it's in our neighborhood. Spec's is more than just liquor, beer and wine. This upscale market features a deli, and sells cigars, gift items and glassware. The new store is expected to open before Thanksgiving.

## **Dates to Remember**

September 19, 2011, Monday – Monthly Brush Pick-Up. Have large items and yard materials on the curb by 7:00 am Monday morning.

October 16, 2011, Sunday – Meadows Neighborhood Fall Chili Cook-Off! 5-7:00 pm. Get those recipes ready...more details to follow.

## **PLEASE...**

...send me your ideas, suggestions and information for this newsletter. It is so much more interesting when neighbors make their contributions each month. I appreciate those of you who have done so in the past and encourage everyone to do so in the future.

Thanks, Karen

Editor

One last cute dog staying cool picture....enjoy!

