



Hillcrest Forest Neighborhood Association

HillcrestForest.org

Spring 2019

ANNUAL MEETING

Please join us!

Saturday, May 4 - 1:30 PM, Churchill Recreation Center

Southeast corner of Hillcrest Road and Churchill Way

A Neighborhood Home Tour: April 13

Hillcrest Forest will not have a home tour this year. Instead, our association is a sponsor of the **Northaven Home Tour**, benefiting our neighborhood public school, Kramer Elementary. The tour is on

Saturday, April 13. Hillcrest Forest members will receive details by email.



DallasRecycles.com

Recycling Tips from the City

- **Any item with food on it should be discarded.** It will require handling at the recycling center to send it to the landfill. Also, food, grease, or unemptied liquids can get on paper and cardboard in the recycling truck and turn them into trash.
- **Cardboard boxes should be flattened.**
- **No Styrofoam or plastic wrap** or any plastic without a recycling number in a triangle.
- **Do not put items in a trash bag.** Bags have to be opened and emptied by an employee at the recycling center. You can save your items in a trash bag and then dump it into the big blue cart and re-use the bag.

FOR THE LATEST INFO . . .

Visit our website www.HillcrestForest.ORG

We update our website frequently!



From President Bruce Wilke

Questions about our Police Patrols

We have two private patrols in our area: the **Churchill Way ENP** north of Forest Lane, which our association manages, and the **5 Star ENP** south of Forest Lane and east of Hillcrest, run by Beverly Houston. Here are some questions that I've heard:

How do patrols actually reduce crime? One word: deterrence. Criminals drive up and down our streets, looking for targets. If they see that we have private security, they leave and don't come back. In the **5 Star ENP** area, crime dropped by 2/3 after the patrols began.

Why do I sometimes see the officers just parked and not patrolling? If you see them parked, then the **bad guys also** see them parked. Officers park in a prominent location for 10-15 minutes every hour or so. It's very effective. Also, the sight of a police car slows speeding drivers.

I saw our officer parked, on his cellphone, not watching. They do that at times. The important thing is that he is visible. The bad guys don't care if he's checking his text messages – they see the Police and they leave.

I rarely see our officers. I can assure you that they're out there. But it would take luck to look out the window at the moment that they drive by. Criminals scouting our neighborhood see them, though. Our officers are here 60 hours a week. In addition to patrolling, they are available to immediately respond to a call.

Last May, three men burglarized an occupied residence here at 5 AM. Our Smith Patrol officer responded quickly to the dispatch. When he arrived, the 3 suspects fled on foot. Smith pursued one of them, captured him, and turned him over to the Dallas Police – who arrived 10 minutes later.

My thanks to all of you who support the patrols. Because of you, we have a much safer neighborhood.

"Or Current Resident"

If you have wondered why your address on our mailings says "Or Current Resident" on the second line, it's a postal requirement for the lower-cost Bulk Mail rate. We know that you live there!



New Street Sign Toppers!

As you drive around Dallas, you have probably seen the small “street sign toppers” above some corner signs, naming the neighborhood. This is a City of Dallas program. The City believes that the signs provide a sense of neighborhood identity and community. The City doesn’t pay for the signs, but it does provide inexpensive installation.

Last year, we surveyed several hundred of our members about possible “Hillcrest Forest” signs for our neighborhood. 92% liked the idea. In a follow-up survey, 60% preferred the design below.



The 31 signs cost about \$150 each and many residents donated toward the project. To all of you who did, *Thank You!*

The signs were recently installed at neighborhood entrances, mostly along Hillcrest Road, Forest Lane, and Royal Lane. If there was a stop sign on the pole, the city also added a strip of red tape to make the stop sign more visible – it's a new city policy.

2018-2019 Hillcrest Forest Board

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NEWSLETTER
We need a Volunteer!

NOMINATIONS
Audrey Naarden



Dallas Police ask residents: **PLEASE DO NOT GIVE CASH to panhandlers.**

It only encourages and attracts more of them. They go where the money is, and many are not even "homeless" – they are *professionals*. Asking for gas money "to get home" is a favorite ploy. Some can be aggressive.

If you want to help the homeless, police ask that you donate your money to organizations set up to help them, such as:

The Bridge Homeless Recovery Center
The Austin Street Center
The Union Gospel Mission
And there are several other very good ones.

Crime Fighting Tips

40% of neighborhood crime is against cars parked outside at night. If you are in that group, try to make room in your garage so you can get your valuable car inside, where it's safe.

If your home has an alarm system, use it even if you just run to the store. Also, set the alarm on your outside doors & windows when you go to bed. No one can jimmy a door and slip in while you're asleep. If you don't have an alarm, the new wireless systems are surprisingly inexpensive.



Dallas Police say to not be reluctant to call 911. We are their eyes and ears. You will not take them away from something more important, because they prioritize 911 calls according to officer availability.

A Single-project Volunteer Opportunity

Our association needs a volunteer to arrange our 4th of July parade. We can show you how! Optional Board membership is included.

The job: Making phone calls to book entertainment, a fire truck, etc. On the 4th of July, use a hand-held mic to make a few announcements.

Email HillcrestForestDallas@gmail.com if you want more information!