



Newsletter, April 2006

General Meeting

**Lake Highlands Area Improvement Association
General Membership Meeting**

Monday, April 17th

7:00 pm

Lake Highlands Freshman Center Auditorium

Join us and guest speakers

**RISD Board President, *Luke Davis*
Former Dallas City Council Member, *Alan Walne***

“The Impact of the TIF on Lake Highlands and RISD”

Membership

To All Our Neighborhood/Homeowner Associations and Crime Watch Groups

We have updated our membership form in an effort to know each of you better. Our goal is to better serve the many associations and groups in our Lake Highlands area. If you are one of the leaders of your group, please fill out the form and send it to Ray Hill at the e-mail address on the bottom of the form, or phone his office for the mailing address. If you are not one of the leaders, please take the form to the person who is and ask to complete it.

We have been limited in our ability to communicate important news and events to our community because we are lacking valid up to date information from some of you. Therefore, if you are a member, help us to have good current information. And while you are helping us update our records, this is also a good time to be certain your dues are paid current. A membership form is available at <http://www.lhaia.org/PDFfiles/2006/HOAMemberForm2006.pdf> .

If you are not a member, this is your opportunity to become a part of LHAIA. If you want to know more about all we do and are doing, take a few minutes to visit our website www.lhaia.org . We welcome your participation.

Crime Watch

The Crime Watch Committee's web page can now be viewed at the LHAIA website. Go to www.lhaia.org and click on Crime Watch.

The web page contains a number of different items including the weekly and cumulative crime statistics for 2006 for the Northeast Operations Division.

The goal of the Committee is to establish e-mail communications with all of the members of LHAIA and any crime watches within the Northeast Operations Division. It is the Committee's goal to be able to receive information from all crime watches and to be able to send important information to all crime watches in a timely manner. Crime is not limited to just one neighborhood and we believe that all neighborhoods will benefit by knowing what is happening in other neighborhoods.

What the Committee needs now is good contact information from all associations, crime watches, and VIP groups.

In order to make sure you are on our e-mail list, please send the names, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses to us of your president or chairs for your group, crime watch, and VIPs. You can e-mail these to us at crimewatch@lhaia.org.

Our next **Crime Watch Summit** will be held on Monday, May 1, 2006, at 7:00 p.m. We will announce the location at a later date. Chief Easterling from the Northeast Operations Division will attend.

Safety Fair - The Northeast Operations Division is having their yearly Safety Fair from 10 am till 2 pm on Saturday, May 6, at the station, 9915 E. Northwest Highway. They are currently looking for anyone who would like to volunteer for an hour or two or the entire safety fair (serve hotdogs, pour drinks, nothing heavy or hard). If you think you might like to volunteer please call Officer Bervin Smith at 214-670-7747 and leave your name and number and he will get back to you.

VIP School - Dates for the VIP school have been finalized for the rest of the year. They are as follows: April 17-18-20, July 17-18-20, a 1 day class on Saturday September 16, and finally another 3 day school on November 6-7-9. On the 3 day schools the first 2 are at the NE station from 7 pm to 9 pm with the third night downtown at the 911 office from 7 pm to 9 pm. The 1 day school is on a Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm all at the 911 office. If you need an application download them from the DPD website at www.dallaspolice.net and go to the volunteer page. Be sure and download the liability waiver.

LHAIA Fact or Fiction?

Please visit <http://www.lhaia.org/Rumors.php> to read the latest information about what is going on in the neighborhood.

Economic Development

Accelerating Momentum

Lake Highlands economic development got a boost from a couple of early adopters, when Jim Christon revived Northlake Shopping Center and Bill Baldrige upgraded Trimark Landing Apartments and began returning Timberleaf Condominiums to their architectural splendor.

However, Lake Highlands experienced a major shift in momentum in 2005, boosting economic development in many areas. Replacing older structures...the former Kingsley Square is undergoing both demolition and a face lift; the aging Cypress Apartments, American Inn and Royal Inn, and an office building will soon be torn down for a new Wal-Mart Super Center; and the older Northwest Terrace apartments will be replaced with new townhouses. For Lake Highlands' few remaining empty lots...the Urban Reserve broke ground on creek-side, modern urban homes, with another creek-side development of office condominiums nearing completion just down the road at Royal and Greenville.

And lastly...the passing of the TIF has opened the door for new development along Skillman.

To help keep up with all the changes the LHAIA has opened a new web page for all development and project information at www.lhaia.org/developments.php. In addition to developments you will find information on roadway improvements and the trail and parks system.

Retail Committee

Three years ago we learned that restaurants were the #1 desire for new area retail. In 2005 we welcomed many new eating choices: Mariano's, Divine Coffee Shop, Eat the World, Curley's, Meals To Go, White Rock Coffee and an expanded Brothers Pizza. We also had to say good-bye to some longtime Lake Highlands friends like The Collection, Accessory Market, 75% Off Books, Happy Destiny Books & Gifts, and Napoli's.

With nineteen major retail centers and another two dozen smaller strip centers, the Retail Committee will continue to build relationships with brokers, business owners and property owners, and will focus on specific needs at these neighborhood centers. The Adopt-A-Corner Program has been very successful in helping residents deal with local retail issues. However, many corners are being ignored. If you have a desire to see improvements in your neighborhood shopping center, consider giving a few hours to the Adopt-A-Corner Program.

In Summary

The redevelopments above will change the housing mix in Lake Highlands and improve the demographic balance, which contributes to the stability of a neighborhood. Stability has been and continues to be the hallmark of Lake Highlands. It will also bring new, much-needed retail opportunities, as well. This momentum shift is very positive for our community, but only if we stay involved and actively participate in the changes.

Find out how you can help, contact:

Susan Morgan

LHAIA, Economic Development

heysmorgan@aol.com

Sign and Beautification

Now that spring has sprung, the Lake Highlands sign & beautification effort is really gaining momentum!

The mission of this effort is to beautify the medians throughout our community as well as design and construct gateway signs. Of course, this will include the solicitation of donations from both individuals and corporate sponsors to raise the necessary resources to cover the costs of the beautification effort.

We are working to determine the first median beautification project by identifying all intersections for potential tree planting. This includes consultation with the City of Dallas arborist to assist in determining which types of trees would be the most practical for each designated location and require the least amount of maintenance. Additionally, we are working with the City of Dallas' Parks and Recreation Department to ensure cost effectiveness in both design and implementation of the gateway signs.

We are currently undertaking a survey of the entire Lake Highlands community in an effort to prioritize locations. This necessitates the need to actively seek volunteers.

We need your help, especially if you have an expertise in:

- Irrigation
- Landscape
- Design
- Sales/Funds Solicitation (Donations)

If you hear the call to be part of the effort to beautify our community please register that interest by contacting me at 214.796.6626. Remember, "It takes a Village".

Also, should you have updated information regarding HOA President/contact information, please complete a revised membership form so that a more informative meeting can be arranged.

Thank you,
Lesa Bishop
Sign and Beautification Chair
214.796.6626
lesa.bishop@ge.com

Website Activity

Our website is gaining popularity! In the past three months we have averaged 258 visits per day! The average visitor reads 3 pages per visit and stays online with us for approximately 18 minutes.

March has been the busiest month for our website so far this year with 52% of the visits in the past 90 days occurring this month. "Rumors - Fact or Fiction?" is our most popular page, and the Forbes article about real estate appreciation in Lake Highlands that we posted in March was the most popular download.

Check our website often! www.lhaia.org We are always adding new information as it becomes available.