

Irving Hospital District Neighborhood Association

www.hospitaldistrict.org



Volume 7, Issue 2

April / May / June 2009



PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR & ATTEND EVENTS WE'D LOVE TO SEE YOU THERE

NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD MEETINGS

All meetings start at 6:30PM
Irving Church of Christ, meeting room
108 Grauwlyer (just east of O'Connor)

June, & July 2009 — No Meetings

August 20, 2009, Thursday

September 2009 — No Meeting

October 15, 2009, Thursday

November 19, 2009, Thursday

December 2009 — No Meeting

2009 DATES TO KNOW

(Rain date is the same day the following week)

June 28 Sunday: IHDNA Independence Social
(put out flags for July 4th, rain date Fri July 3)

Sept 18 & 19, Fri/Sat: IHDNA Garage Sale

October 6 Tuesday: National Night Out

Nov 7 Saturday: IHDNA Chili Cook-off

December 5 Saturday: IHDNA Holiday Party

E-MAIL DISTRIBUTION LIST

Board member Joe Cleveland maintains an e-mail list for quick distribution of news & events that are of interest to our neighborhood. If you want to be included on this distribution list please e-mail Joe.

NEWSLETTER SUGGESTIONS / IDEAS?

Please contact: Doug Wheeler

Newsletter articles often originate from board meeting discussions & concerns, please attend.

Next newsletter deadline is September 15

Printing by: Minuteman Press 972.313.3428

NEIGHBORSGO & DALLAS MORN NEWS

Selected newsletter articles are posted on a web-site hosted by the Dallas Morning News. Articles might then be selected for the Irving insert to every Friday's newspaper. To see all stories we've posted go to www.neighborsgo.com, do a search for IHDNA, select any story listed, & then click on "more from this contributor."

Please Plan for Our June Social

Whew! After four IHDNA events, two in one day & the rest originally planned for every other weekend (see pages 3 & 4) we're returning at the end of June for our IHDNA Independence Social! See Dates to Know at left & please mark your calendars now — details will be sent separately. We already know we need help so please contact Amy Nelson (see page 10) & volunteer a little of your time. Thanks.

MacArthur Pump Station Renovation

Demolition of the oldest of the three water tanks started in mid-February, later than scheduled but the 50+ year old 5-million gallon water tank was completely gone by April 8. Eventually, a new station building will occupy this site & the existing building will be removed & replaced by landscaping. As of May the City reports excavation of the new building is underway & the projected completion date is Fall 2010 (originally summer).



Welcome New Neighbors

Please welcome these new neighbors & let us know if we miss anyone

Betsy Lane

2019 — Anteneh & Berhane & Family

Cypress Drive

1607 — Smith Family

Glen Valley Drive

1632 — McCowan Family

Mosswood

1408 — Munson Family



Welcome New Arrivals



Feb 11: Emily & Eric welcomed a 5-lb 8-oz, 19 3/4-inch baby boy.

March 3: Cecilia & Clint welcomed a 7-lb 6-oz, 21-inch baby girl.

March 23: Michelle & Jeff welcomed an 8-lb 1-oz, 21-inch baby boy.

April 29: Tammy & Dave welcomed a 5-lb 13-oz, 18 1/2-inch baby boy.

At the Other End of Our Demographics

Our most senior resident is most certainly Helen who has resided in our neighborhood for a mere eight years of her life. Helen flew to Washington DC to spend June with family members in the DC & Pittsburgh areas but she will be back in plenty of time to drive friends & family out to dinner to celebrate her 101st birthday on September 4. Many happy returns.

We'd Like to Hear Your Story

On page 7 of this newsletter is a story about the surprising number of people in this neighborhood who are related to someone in another house in this neighborhood. There are additional stories which speak well of this neighborhood, for example:

- Many original owners who have never felt the need to move somewhere else.
- Individuals who grew up in this neighborhood & then returned to live as adults (several are living in the house in which they grew up).
- Parents & children, or siblings who all feel comfortable living here.
- Has anyone moved away & then moved back?

If you are one of these people & would like to share your story, we'd like to hear it. Please contact Doug Wheeler. Thanks.



PRESIDENT'S PAGE

BLOCK PARTY EXCITEMENT

In our first six years as an official neighborhood association we made it through every outdoor event without a postponement or cancellation. That streak of success came to an end this year with the postponement of our 7th annual block party due to bad weather. But we managed to come back again the following weekend & make it happen.

We learned a lot from that experience. We rescued the barbeque fresh off the Jerry Bates smoker on Glen Valley & got it into freezers at various homes throughout the neighborhood. We were lucky in that the band did not have another engagement booked for the following Saturday. The bounce house was kept dry & Amy Nelson was able to reschedule without extra expense. We pushed into gear again on Monday of that week for another go of it the following Saturday. The weather was perfect despite more threat of rain earlier in the morning. With all the quick maneuvering by Amy, the rest of our Social Committee, & other volunteers, it came off without a hitch despite the hiccup.

DOGS, CITY SERVICES

I know many of you have heard various things about dog attacks when speaking to neighbors, reading emails or from attending our April meeting. Some of these incidents were well-publicized & others went hardly noticed depending on what happened & who was involved.

My own sister received a bad infection two years ago from a dog bite while out walking her own dog in her North Dallas neighborhood. The scar just above her ankle is very noticeable to this day. I will spare you the graphic photos unlike she did



Gerald Farris, IHDNA President

with me.

As I said in our last meeting, we have not seen our last dog incident in our neighborhood. As long as there are dogs, there may be dog bites. Likewise, there will be crime & incidents of varying degrees of peril regardless of where we live. Anything we can learn to prevent & deal with such things will serve us well.

We brought in Mr. Denny Islas from Irving Animal Services at our April general meeting to learn how to protect ourselves & respond when dog attacks occur. As with all of the speakers we invite to our general meetings, it was a great opportunity for us to learn & become more empowered. Whether the subject is crime prevention, code enforcement, safety or utilities, our city departments are some of the first places we can turn to when we have community related matters to resolve. Put your tax dollars & city services to work. They are here to serve you.

TOP-NOTCH EDUCATION

How many of you have school-aged children, soon-to-be school-aged children,

were in school yourself, teach school or taught school? Of course, the answer is all of us. Having a child of my own heading to 8th grade, I have come to realize through the years that Irving is the place to be for education.

Many of you are products of the IISD &/or private schools in & around our city. & I have met so many of our neighbors who have come to Irving solely for the purpose of education – students, teachers, professors. From preschool to college, our neighbors represent easily a dozen or more schools, private & public.

An example of the level of educational accomplishment in Irving: last fall I was looking at the roster of regional orchestra students at the middle school level. The IISD students who made up that roster represented an impressive 37% of the entire orchestra including 1st chair violin & cello! That is in competition with Dallas ISD, Cedar Hill, Coppell & others. No other district came close to that level of representation. I did not realize how dedicated teaching professionals & PTA volunteers are to the education of our children until having a child of my own.

QUICK GETAWAY

Want to take a vacation? Without sounding too “sappy”, I take a mini 30-minute to one-hour vacation everyday. My hobby this spring has been to walk around the neighborhood & look at our forest above the house tops & identify my favorite trees. Hopefully this summer I can photograph some of these beauties (front yards only) & place the photos on the website & in our next newsletter.

Have a great summer!

MISSION STATEMENT: The IRVING HOSPITAL DISTRICT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION is dedicated to making our neighborhood a safer, friendlier place to live. We strive to unite our neighbors by offering general beautification projects and social events for the whole family. We are a neighborhood association sponsored by the City of Irving, formed within the City of Irving requirements. We do so to qualify for grants and other areas of support offered by the city. We participate in the Neighborhood Roundtable on a regular basis to interact with other neighborhood associations in the City of Irving. We have a Board of Directors elected by members of the association. The members of the association are your neighbors. The officers are selected by the Board of Directors. Please join us at our open meetings. We need your input and participation in order to make our association one of the best in the city.



Recently Retired Board Members

The Dec 2008 newsletter recognized four retiring IHDNA board members — Mark Murray, Roland Medina, Jan Bemis, & Jerrold Johnsen. Since then former Secretary Sue Cicherski & Treasurer Joe Matelich retired. We thank all six for their service & invited them to share their thoughts or advice with us & the remaining board. We heard from:

Sue Cicherski: Hi Neighbors. I had a great time serving as secretary for the IHDNA....gave me the opportunity to meet neighbors from other streets. I enjoyed always learning more of what is going on in the City of Irving....not that I always agree with our city leadership. But then, that is part of why the Neighborhood Associations exists. I wish we could get more neighbors involved, if not attending the meetings, then at least coming out for the different socials. I haven't forgotten the board, just other activities keeping me busy on board nights. Sue

Farine Creek Clean-up

Following the Easter egg hunt on April 4 (see story below) a small group of dedicated neighbors took the time & energy to conduct the annual clean-up of Farine Creek, which runs between Glen Valley Drive & MacArthur Blvd.

Thanks! This clean-up is part of Keep Irving Beautiful, an Irving initiative on which you can find information at: <http://cityofirving.org/keep-irving-beautiful/kib.html>.

Marian & Don Receive Awards

The previous newsletter included an article about the good work our neighbors Marian Guthery & Don Kilpatrick do as ambassadors at DFW, welcoming soldiers returning from Iraq & Afghanistan. Since then both have received awards from the Ambassador program. "We're very proud," said Marian. Our congratulations to you both!



IHDNA Garage Sale — Any Umbrellas?

We had 25 houses sign up for our Spring neighborhood garage sale — which is good participation. Unfortunately, the weather didn't cooperate & we were reminded why we set a rain date for most events. We hope everyone sold all their unwanted "stuff" & purchased treasures. We thank everyone who helped with the signs. As it says on our calendar, we'll give it another go in September; hopefully under clear skies.



How much?
Marked \$5
Give you \$1
No \$2
No \$3
Okay
Have more?
No
Don't want

2009 IHDNA Easter Egg Hunt — Results Exceeded Expectations

Our neighbor Tony Spurgin volunteered to write-up this year's Easter egg hunt as part of a school assignment. We appreciate his contribution:

On April 4, 2009 the Irving Hospital district hosted its yearly Easter egg hunt at Three Fountains Park. The kids hunted for eggs scattered in the grass behind the fountain. Fifty-two children participated — 37 were 5-years & younger, 15 were ages 6 - 10. There were about 1,300 eggs they had to find! Cookies were provided by Jan Eitelman, Jane Dixon, Susan Rohe, Pat Miller, Helen Andress, & Staci Johnson.

with soapsuds, which filled it to the edge. An occasional gust of wind would send chunks of suds flying across the air. "At least the kids had fun playing with the suds," said one organizer.

The hunt began about 11:30 & proceeded quickly. The hunt was divided between the older & younger kids. I conducted a survey among some of the kids on how many eggs they thought they would get versus how many eggs they got. Here are the results:

- Alexis Bates: thought 12 — got 18,
 - Haley Bates: thought 40 — got 78,
 - Trey Nelson: thought 30 — got 56,
 - Caitlin Cartwright thought: 10 — got 39, &
 - Alegra Simmons thought 23 — got 34.
- The owner of the most eggs in the older group was James Clark: 87 eggs. The owner of the most eggs in the younger group was Kenna Takana: 65 eggs.
Sydney Farris bravely wore the Easter bunny costume.



Unfortunately, vandals put soap suds in the fountain the night before the hunt. This appears to have become a tradition among Irving hooligans every Easter egg hunt. The fountain was filled

< Sydney Farris receiving well-deserved hugs. & the hunt is on! >
∨ The homemade refreshments were the best! ∨





2009 Block Party — Delayed, Delicious, & Delightful

In our seven years of block parties this was the first to be postponed & even though eve-

rything was moved back a week & up three hours we still had a very good turn-out of around 200 people. The crowd included some of our longest-term & some of our newest neighbors — just what we want.

We were lucky that the excellent band, Sin City Saints was still available as was the bounce house for the kids. The barbeque that was shrink-wrapped re-heated to perfection & all the side dishes brought were wonderful — thanks to everyone for those. Chief of Police Larry Boyd was there along with one of our neighborhood beat officers. The Irving Fire Department showed up with a fire truck & the Humane Society set up an information table. Amanda Nicholls had a crafts table for the kids & Holly Elms provided colorful skin art to whoever requested it.

Contests for the kids included a

1) water balloon toss, 2) hula hoop marathon (it was brief), & 3) potato sack race. Door prizes were awarded & we sold eight copies of our neighborhood cookbook, Sharing our Best. Most there also met Doug Wheeler, who wandered around gathering names & phone numbers for the next IHDNA directory. Oh, & the weather was great — cloudy that day with a pleasant breeze blowing down Post Oak Drive.

One of the hard lessons learned by having this party postponed was our need to have plenty of volunteers — we lost nine volunteers who were available on May 2nd but not on the 9th. Our Social Committee Chairman, Amy Nelson did huge amount of work. Amy needs volunteers for every social event & much of the help needed is for fairly short periods of time. We love your attendance ... we need your help ... please contact Amy (see page 10) & let her know when you can pitch in. Thanks.



Information From Irving Animal Services

In April the board invited Irving Animal Services to discuss Animal Service operations & what we should know about it. We appreciate Mr. Denny Islas, Senior Animal Services Officer for the information he shared & the appreciable amount of time he spent with us. So that all our neighbors can have the benefit of that discussion here first is follow-up information provided by Irving Animal Services:

As a precautionary measure against disease, the State of Texas considers anything that breaks the skin to be a bite. If you are bitten by a dog contact Irving Animal Services immediately. Thoroughly wash the wound with soap & water. Seek medical attention if necessary.

Dogs are most likely to bite when:

- Anxious or afraid,
- Protecting property or family,
- Sick or hurt,
- Eating or sleeping — never approach a sleeping dog, or
- A mother is protecting puppies.

When you see a loose dog:

- Call Animal Services & report the dog's description, location, & owner (if known).
- Never approach or chase the dog.

- If the dog approaches you:
 - ◊ Do not move or stare directly into the dog's eyes.
 - ◊ Remain calm & quiet.
 - ◊ When the dog loses interest, slowly walk away.
- Never tease or hit a dog, or pull its ears, tail, or feet.

Do not hang over a fence or put your hand through an opening where there is a dog.

Irving Animal Services Shelter
100 N. Briery Road - Irving, TX 75060
11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday – Friday
Noon to 5 p.m. – Saturday
Closed Sundays & Holidays
972.721.2256 & 2257
www.cityofirving.org



Civil & criminal ordinances related to animal services are on the Irving web-site:

- Under the tab Government, then
- City Code – Criminal,
- Chapter 6.

There was frustration voiced at the April meeting regarding the process for reporting a dangerous animal & what happens then. Here is a summary of a lengthy discussion:

- At this time you cannot report a dangerous animal via e-mail or Internet.

- To report a dangerous animal you must to fill out a Dangerous Animal Affidavit [as of June 9 this form was not on the City's web-site].
 - ◊ Include as much information as possible, including witnesses & phone numbers, address of where the animal lives, & photographs of damage &/or injury, etc.

- The affidavit must be notarized.
- The affidavit can be hand delivered or mailed to Animal Services.

Once Animal Services receives the affidavit, the process is basically:

- Animal Services will mail a letter to the animal's owner asking for a response to the affidavit.
- If a response is not received within five days a warrant will be issued to seize the animal.
- After the animal is seized a determination will be made by the Animal Services Manager regarding disposition of the animal based on a number of factors including, but not limited to: vaccination & registration, witness interviews, severity of damage/injury, any past history with the animal.

For more on dogs please see page 8.



All About Angelo's

Our neighbor Jan Eitelman wanted to share this story; we appreciate her contribution.

Angelo's restaurant is a neighborhood institution. Consistency is its distinction. One knows what to expect: friendly service, good pasta & pizzas, or a steak cooked to order, all at affordable prices. Take-out is big for those who want to eat at home but don't want to cook. The following is an interview with Nancy King, co-owner & neighborhood resident.

"Angelo's Spaghetti & Pizza was 'born' in February, 1966, when Charlie King purchased an existing restaurant owned by the Farina family. Since Farina was their family name, we had a few months to come up with a different name for our restaurant. We chose 'Angelo's' because it started with an 'A' & sounded Italian. We took over the restaurant lease in Plymouth Park & the equipment & personnel, & suddenly we were in the restaurant business."

"The original restaurant had three tables & nine booths. We soon needed to expand so we added a dining room. Over time, we took in adjacent space previously used by a loan company & a dry cleaner to bring our capacity to 175. In 1980, Plymouth Park Shopping Center wanted to buy our lease for a new Kroger location.

A friend of ours happened to have a restaurant building vacant on Pioneer next to Sonic. Making some changes for our requirements, we moved to the new location over one weekend. It was a scary move, but it gave us exposure to many new customers & our old customers didn't miss a meal! The 1330 W. Pioneer location gave us 260 seats & it has been our home ever since."

"Charlie spent many long days & nights at Angelo's tending the business. In 1974, he suffered a heart attack, & at that time he turned the store over to our son, Don. Charlie stayed involved behind the scenes doing the business part, & he always opened up each morning to be sure everything was ready for the day. In 1986, he originated our 'Roll Back to 1966 Prices' promotion to celebrate twenty years in business. We didn't celebrate just one day, but rather six days! We served over 12,000 meals during that time & had waiting lines all over the parking area. Charlie King died in 1992, but his dream of having a successful restaurant has been more than fulfilled."

"In 1993, Don opened a second Angelo's at 1101 E. Pioneer Parkway in Arlington. Cliff McElroy, our present manager, became a partner in 2001 & has been with us for thirty years (his mother also lives in



the Hospital District.) We've had wonderful, loyal employees over the years who we still see as customers, or who even help out sometimes when there is a need."

"I am still involved in the restaurant & will usually be found greeting customers on weekends. We enjoy serving good food at 'Prices a Family Can Still Afford' (our motto), & we still are family owned & oriented. We're proud that we have some fourth-generation customers who have get-togethers at Angelo's, & we always welcome new faces."

Bike Friendly Irving!

Two of our neighbors, Jim Eitelman & Francesca Funk serve on the city-sponsored Irving Bike Lane Task Force & are asking for your input. The goal is to establish transportation bike lanes on specific roads throughout Irving to improve travel safety & become a successful environmentally sustainable city. Texas law gives bicyclists the right to an entire lane of traffic just as it does any motorcycle or automobile.

The task force recommended dedicated striped bike lanes be established & this will require specific streets be retrofitted over time. However, during the transition period the city recommended "sharrows" (SHare the road ARROWS) be used in place of stripes to



1) remind motorists to Share the Road with bicyclists & 2) concentrate bicycle traffic to specific streets, making travel safer for everyone.

Currently 6th Street between MacArthur & Delaware is painted with sharrows & the task force is asking you to drive it, ride it, & then provide your feedback regarding street & lane quality & safety to bikeirving@gmail.com. Thanks in advance for your contribution.

Advertising Per Issue: \$1.429 per sq inch Or \$10 for business-size card



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The IHDNA Is Like Family — Really!

How far away does your nearest relative live? If you live in the IHDNA there is a good chance your nearest relative also lives here. Of our 440 homes one out of every ten is occupied by someone related to someone in another house. As of June 2009 we have the following neighbors who are related to other neighbors:

1. Angela on Glenbrook Drive N. has parents on Post Oak Drive.
2. Rocky on North Glen Vista lives next door to his aunt.
3. Cindy on Glenhaven Court has a father on Glenbrook Drive N.
4. Jerry on Glen Valley Drive has a brother on Glenbrook Drive S.
5. Ann on Cypress Drive has a sister on Post Oak Drive & a father on Lane Street.
6. Tad on Cypress Drive has parents on Mosswood Lane.
7. Judy on Glen Alta Drive has a daughter on Glenbrook Drive & a cousin on Glen Dell Drive.
8. Jacob on Mosswood Lane has parents on Broadmoor Lane.
9. Kathy on Glen Valley Drive has a sister four houses away on the same street.
10. Damian on Glenbrook Drive S. has a sister across the street & one house over.
11. Shannon on Glenbrook Drive N. has parents on Glen Valley Drive.
12. Beverly on Cypress Drive has a mother on Post Oak Drive.
13. Cheryl on Broadmoor Lane has a mother on Limetree Lane.
14. Chris on Glen View Drive lives next door to has parents.
15. Debra on Glenbrook Drive N. has parents on Post Oak Drive.
16. Trish on Betsy Lane has parents two houses away on the same street.
17. Jay on Post Oak Drive has a great uncle on the same street.
18. Mark on Cypress Drive has a brother on Grauwlyer Road who lives across the street & one house over from their father.
19. Johannah on Glenbrook Drive N. has a sister across the street & two houses over.
20. David on Glen Crest Court has parents on Mosswood Lane.

The point of this story is:

We are not a neighborhood of strangers. Most of the above relationships are parents who have been here a long time, including some original owners, & their children who like the neighborhood they grew up in enough to want to live here as adults ... & to raise their own children in. But we also have parents & adult children who each moved here recently (recently by IHDNA standards appears to be as long as 10 years

ago) & siblings who put down roots here independently of each other. This all speaks strongly about the stability, desirability, & also the security of our neighborhood.

If we missed anyone who should have been included on this list please let the editor Doug Wheeler know — contact information is on the front page. We would like nothing more than to brag about our relatives ratio being one out of every nine

(or less) houses. Also on the front page is a plea for stories from the people in the above list & from others who are in a position to share relatively unique stories about living in a neighborhood (not so much our neighborhood apparently, but for a “regular” neighborhood). If you’re one of these neighbors please take the time to share your story — or even just a brief comment if you’re not much of a writer.

Thanks in advance for sharing.



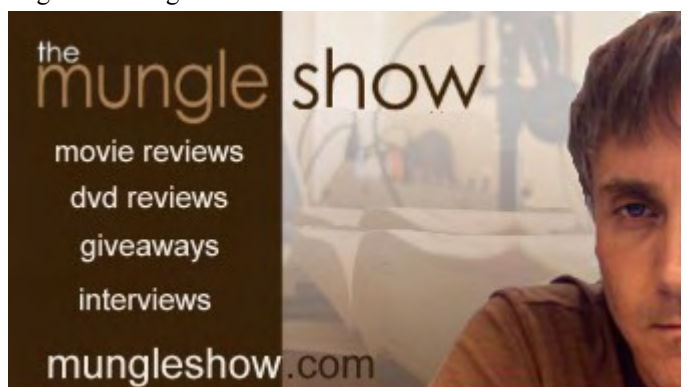
Colonial Lane Caretaker

Colonial Lane in our neighborhood is a 1,130-foot city street on which no house has an address — it looks like an alley; & it accumulates blowing trash that would still be there if our neighbor Jane Dixon did not keep Colonial Lane clean. Since 1996 Jane regularly donates about an hour & a half of her time every time she cleans up both sides of this street. When asked she reported she has not yet found a \$100 bill or a lost diamond earring, but there is always plenty of litter. She hopes everyone will think about how what they do affects those around them, both bad (i.e. litterers) & good; & that everyone will work towards keeping our corner of the world litter-free. The next time you see Jane, please thank her for her example.

Speaking of Bad Examples

Unlike Jane Dixon, there are some spending their time vandalizing our property & stealing what does not belong to them. This behavior recently increased when school let out & is occurring mostly at night. We remind everyone to keep their vehicles locked & in a secure place at night, if possible. Also keep your house locked — more safety tips

are on page 9. So the police can justify providing us the time needed to suppress this activity we need to populate their database with every instance of theft or vandalism. If you are a victim: 1) phone the police non-emergency number at 972.721.2661 & say, "I want to report [a crime][vandalism]" & provide the requested information; then 2) ask for an incident number or whatever confirmation or tracking number they use, & 3) send that number to Jan Bemis who is tracking for the neighborhood.





Calloway's Nursery — Timely Tip for April Gardeners

Calloway's Nursery offers many organic products to help you develop a "green" environment. We also offer traditional solutions but for the gardener who is exploring the "greener" side here are a few ideas.

It all begins with the soil, so have your soil tested the first of each year FREE at any of our stores. Organic matter is important to the soil composition. It helps with drainage and helps increase the soil microbe population. Expanded shale is also used to break

up hard, compacted clay soils. Calloway's Organic Fertilizer contains seven food-grade meals and can be applied to your lawn and other plantings. Top dress your flowerbeds and containers with our organic mulches. They not only break down slowly putting organic material back into the soil but, they also prevent weeds, conserve moisture and cool the soil during the heat of the summer.

Other organic insecticides and fungicides are Neem Oil, Diatomaceous Earth, Dipel

Dust and Insecticidal Soaps. These are products which are safe to use around pets and children. There are also beneficial insects available such as Ladybugs, Lacewings and Beneficial Nematodes! These guys will attack the pests and take care of them "naturally".

Join us on April 18th, for our Earth Day clinic and learn more about our "natural choices". Or, go to <http://www.calloways.com/clinics.pdf> for more information on clinics.

Calloway's Nursery — Timely Tip for May Gardeners

This month is a good time for planting ground covers either as a lawn or in other locations of your landscape. Now is the time for planting seed or sod for your lawn grasses. Bermuda grass has the best traffic tolerance, and requires full sun to prosper. It is very drought tolerant. St. Augustine grass has the most shade tolerance, but is the least drought tolerant and is most susceptible to diseases, insects and iron chlorosis.

Other ground cover plants should be used where grass is difficult to grow or maintain. These can range from low growing evergreen shrubs, vines, grasses, perenni-

als and even annual color. Groundcovers can provide solutions to a landscaping challenge or just add a bit of much needed texture and color. They help to define space and create various moods. Small leaved, smooth textured groundcovers used in broad curved plantings can convey a feeling of spaciousness. Whereas large leaved coarse textured groundcovers create a feeling of closeness.

Selection of a suitable plant for ground cover depends on the area where it will be grown. Some ground cover plants prefer partial shade, others thrive in deep shade or full sun; a few grow well in either sun

or shade. Some, however, prefer moist soil while others need dry or well-drained soil.

Check out our collection of STE-PABLES® which are tough, earth-friendly, easy-to-maintain perennials that take foot traffic. You can find the perfect plant for your needs within this group!

Join us in May for a variety of free clinics. In keeping on topic, our clinic for **Saturday, May 16th** is titled, "**Covering Ground with Ground Covers.**" Visit www.mytexasgarden.com for a complete listing and details of our free clinics. Have a wonderful May!

Irving Hospital District Neighborhood Association

Visit us at www.calloways.com



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CODE #92

Nearest Calloway's Nurseries:

Hurst: 760 Grapevine Highway, north of Precinct Line Road, 817.581.6361
Lewisville: 423 East FM 3040, near Vista Ridge Mall, 972.315.3133

A Reminder About Dogs & Poop

On page 3 is an article about loose &/or dangerous dogs. A less dangerous but still important topic related to neighborhood dogs is the owner's responsibility to clean up after their dog if it relieves itself on someone else's property. This topic has



Irving Church of Christ

108 W. Grauwylar Road
Irving TX75061
Office: 972.554.1962
www.irvingchurch.com

Jim Crouch
Mobile: 817.909.4653
jimcrouch@irvingchurch.com

been the subject of multiple neighborhood e-mails & the owner's requirement is covered in section 6-6 of Irving City Code — Criminal.

Ways to be a responsible & considerate dog walker include:

- 1) Purchase small rolls of poop bags that are inside little plastic containers that clip to the leash so it's ready whenever owner & dog go for a walk — you can get these at PetSmart, see www.petsmart.com or Canine Commissary, see www.caninecommissary.net (it's a really cool place on Mockingbird in Dallas).
- 2) Those who have an aversion to carrying poop around until they get home can walk their dog at Three Fountains Park where trash cans can be used for immediate disposal; please don't leave it on the lawn.
- 3) If caught unprepared, you can always go back & pick it up — soon.



April 2009 — 1701 Glen Valley Dr.



The Baxter home. Jody said, "What a surprise & thrill to be YOM in one of the most beautiful months of the year! It is special to walk through this neighborhood & enjoy all the seasons from Fall colors to Spring flowers. Thank you neighbors, for giving us so much beauty."

May 2009 — 1025 Lane Street



The Byrom home — selected for its xeriscaping (xeros is Greek for dry) using native & adapted plants to reduce or eliminate the need to irrigate. Bill wishes only that he had totally xeriscaped both front & back.

June 2009 — 1312 Broadmoor



The Madill home — Kathy said, "We were very excited to find we received YOM again [also 2007]. We thank our landscape service, Personalized Landscape Services, who we have used for years & always knows what we like."

Each Yard Of The Month designee receives a \$25 gift

certificate from Calloway's Nursery

Salsa Dip Recipe

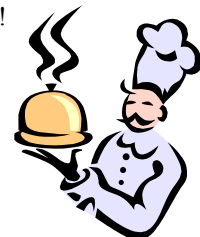
Our neighbor Norma O'Neal recommended that the newsletter include a regular article on favorite recipes & started us off with an easy & popular salsa dip. Please follow Norma's lead & submit your favorite recipe to share!

Ingredients:

- 1 8-oz block of cream cheese, softened.
- 1 cup of your favorite salsa (with corn & black beans is excellent).
- 2 cups of shredded cheddar cheese
- Fritos "Scoops" or corn chips.

Preparation:

- Spread cream cheese in glass pan like a large pie pan.
- Pour salsa evenly over & sprinkle with cheddar cheese.
- Microwave in 30-second increments until cheddar melts.
- Serve with chips.



This can easily be prepared the night before, covered tightly with plastic wrap & refrigerated, then transported & reheated the next day — remove plastic wrap before microwaving.

Safety Tips

From our neighborhood watch coordinator, Bill Herod: Although crime is still a serious concern, our homes & communities are safer than they've been in decades & this is due, at least in part, to owner prevention & neighborhood watch programs. Here are a few tips for the owner prevention part:

- Be sure the outside doors of your home have strong deadbolt locks. If your door has glass windows, like mine install a key lock on both sides & remove the key when away from the house. You don't want a thief to be able to break a pane & easily unlock your door.
- Keep spare keys with a trusted neighbor — not under a doormat or planter, on a ledge, or in the mailbox.
- Lock gates, garage doors, & shed doors after every use.
- Keep your bikes & sports equipment inside the house or garage when not being used.
- Illuminate or eliminate dark places where an intruder might hide — spaces between trees or shrubbery, stairwells, alleys, breezeways, & entryways.
- Set timers on interior lights when you're away so your home appears to be occupied. Program the TV to come on during the evening hours.
- When you will be away from your home for several days tell your neighbors & the police. The police will drive by your home every day.



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This publication delivered to your door is made possible by many of your neighbors working together ... we'd like to acknowledge them here:

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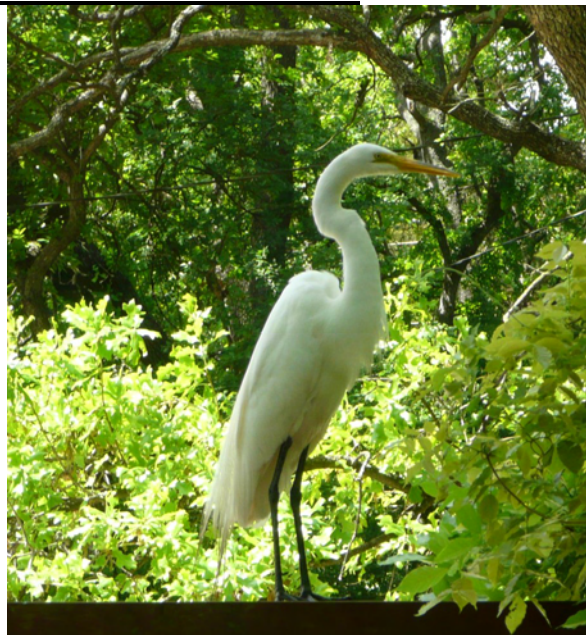
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