

Changing Our Neighborhood

The Fort Worth Avenue Development Group is a group of committed volunteers from the neighboring community that are interested in developing existing businesses and bringing new businesses and residents to the West Commerce/Fort Worth Avenue corridor.

RECENT NEWS

LAKE CLIFF PARK



SEPT 10 | Volunteers needed to beautify City Park. 8am -12pm

Citizens Encouraged to Pitch In For It's My Park Day

(DALLAS) – The City of Dallas Park and Recreation Department is asking citizens to beautify their favorite neighborhood parks for It's My Park Day.

A citywide beautification effort, It's My Park Day will bring community volunteers together to enhance the City's park system from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Sept. 10. Individuals, homeowners' associations, social and civic clubs, corporate volunteer teams, and Friends groups can organize and participate in beautification projects at a park of their choosing, then invite neighbors and friends to pitch in. With assistance from the City's park and recreation staff, volunteers can help with litter and debris pickup, graffiti removal, weeding, and flower and tree mulching and plantings. In addition to beautification projects, communities can make It's My Park Day exciting for all ages by hosting a variety of free, family-friendly recreational activities and entertainment.

Individuals and groups interested in organizing or joining an It's My Park Day project should sign up by Sept. 3 at <http://itsmyparkdaydallas.eventbrite.com> or call Dallas Park and Recreation at (214) 670-8400.

The department hosted the City's first It's My Park Day in March to mobilize citizens to address specific needs in their neighborhood parks. More than 200 volunteers completed cleanup and maintenance projects at 20 sites.

Park and Recreation officials hope citizens with a passion for parks will sign up for the fall event, adding that the citywide service day not only enhances Dallas' park system but also instills community pride among residents.

"Well-maintained parks make cities and urban areas great places to live, work and relax, each vital to our quality of life," said Park and Recreation Director Paul Dyer. "It's My Park Day is a great opportunity for people to celebrate our parks," said Dyer.

Arts Committee

2011 is the first year for the Arts Committee, and our focus is on laying the foundations for on-going support of art and artists along OUR corridor. The committee is working on long-term projects as well as shorter-term ways to make an impact in the community.

The first challenge the Arts Committee faced was not having a structure to fund any art related projects. With this in mind, the Board generously voted to set aside 50% of the auction proceeds from our annual fundraiser to support art along the corridor. Entitled Spare pARTS, the silent auction focused on art made from recycled/repurposed materials. The support from area artists was overwhelming, and the fundraiser was a big success due in no small part to their efforts.

With a budget for art projects established, next month the FWADG will release a Call for Artists to propose an art installation along Fort Worth Avenue. The artists will be encouraged to use recycled or reused materials in keeping with the theme of our auction (itself a reflection of a key value in our community) and to make the art utilitarian (such as a bench or bike rack) to help immediately improve street life. The art will be situated along Fort Worth Avenue, exact location TBD. Updates to follow, so please let your artist friends know!

In much larger and longer-term news, the FWADG has formed an Ad-Hoc committee comprised of area artists, gallerists, journalists, and urban planners to propose a large-scale public art installation at the re-designed intersection of Beckley and Commerce Streets. The street re-design will be the first Green and Complete street in Dallas. The NEW design features wide tree-lined sidewalks, bike lanes, and a system to capture water run-off and route it to the trees, making regular watering unnecessary. The City of Dallas is on board with the concept of adding a public art installation to the intersection, and has allocated over \$200,000 towards the project budget. We are hard at work partnering with the Office of Cultural Affairs on firming up a timeline, final budget, and parameters of the project. We will keep everyone up-to-date as this project moves forward, and we are excited to actively collaborate with the City of Dallas on this new private/public model for the selection and funding of public art.

Zoning & Code Enforcement

The FWADG Zoning & Code Enforcement committee (Z&C) performs field investigations identifying ordinance violations (illegal property uses) and junky properties. We identify these properties in an effort to help clean up FWA from a legal and physical perspective. Our main goal is to help create an environment on FWA that appeals to our existing neighbors and businesses as well as new ones.

Once Z&C has identified properties-with-issues, we try to meet with the property owners in an effort to educate them and resolve the problems. If we can't come to an understanding with the owner, we turn the matter over to the City of Dallas and continue with the City. In addition, to enforcing the code, Z&C can also issue grants to qualified participants that want and are willing to clean up their properties or store-fronts. The grants give people an extra incentive to keep their properties in good condition for a long period of time. Another program we are currently working on is a neighborhood clean-up. Of course, we will need volunteers for this project. Therefore, if you're interested, please contact me at cp@perdueequities.com. I'll keep you posted as to when and where. In the meantime, we'll continue trying to enforce the code.



STAFFORD PARK: Join us between 8am until noon Sept. 10th, as we beautify Stafford Park.

- Ground Aeratation
- Graffiti Removal
- Basketball Court Striping
- Planting



PUBLIC ART OPPORTUNITIES: No definite plans but plenty of opportunities.

SYLVAN 130



The Fight Over Sylvan Thirty's Design
To Read More Go To:
http://blogs.dallasobserver.com/unfairpark/2011/08/the_fight_ove_r_sylvan_thirtys.php