Whispering Hills News

A Community of Neighbors

Serving the Residents of the Whispering Hills Neighborhood DECEMBER 2025



'Tis the Season

Hark! The holiday angels sing,
Vacation's near—it's happening!
Parties, projects, kids run wild,
Counting days till grades are filed





Neighbors Are Becoming Elves to Celebrate the Season

If you are "elfed," someone left you a surprise, along with instructions on what to do to continue the game and spread it throughout the neighborhood.

If you want to see the rules for the Elfing Game, and/or make copies for yourself, go to go to the website WHNAdallas.com and click on Elf game rules at the bottom of the home page.

OUR SECURITY WALLS ARE LEANING AND SEPARATING DUE TO YEARS OF GROUND SHIFTING.

Help with getting repairs done by JOINING WHNA. Dues are only $50.00 for the year or less than 14 cents a day.

City of Dallas Water Bill Rates Are Up

WATER AND WASTEWATER RATES as of Oct 1

Dallas Water Utilities (DWU) implemented rate adjustments to support system infrastructure investments that ensure a high standard for water, wastewater (sewer) and storm water services. DWU rates consist of a customer charge and a volume usage charge. Wastewater volume is based on actual water usage or the winter average, whichever is less.

CUSTOMER CHARGE

	Water		Wastewater	
	Old	New	Old	New
5/8" Meter	$5.80	$5.93	$5.24	$5.34

USAGE (per 1000 Gallons)

Up to 4000 gal	$2.07	$2.17	$5.88	$6.19
4001-10,000 gal	$4.53	$4.81	$5.88	$6.19
10,001-20,000 gal	$7.44	$7.98	$5.88	$6.19
20,001-30,000 gal	$10.61	$11.40	$5.88	$6.19
Over 30,000 gal	$12.35	$13.20	$5.99	$6.19

STORMWATER DRAINAGE MANAGEMENT FEE

The monthly storm water fee has increased for residential customers to improve citywide storm water drainage and flood management infrastructure.

Residential Area	Old	New
Up to 2,000 sq. ft.	$5.11	$5.39
2,001 - 3,500 sq. ft.	$8.14	$8.59
3,501 - 5,500 sq. ft.	$12.17	$12.84
More than 5,500 sq. ft	$19.91	$21.01

WHNA Board & Committee Chairs

NEXTDOOR NETWORK:
nextdoor.com
WEBSITE:
www.whnadallas.com
WHNA MAILING ADDRESS:
10323 Cimmaron Trail
Dallas, TX. 75243

2026 Board Members:

President
Regan Paulsen
WHNApresident@whnadallas.com

Vice President
Davene Morgan
WHNAvicepresident@whnadallas.com

Secretary
Open-Let one of the Board or committee members know if you're interested.

Treasurer/Website
Cynthia Houck
WHNAtreasurer@whnadallas.com

Member-at-Large
Mike Lanham
WHNAmemberatlarge@whnadallas.com

Past President
Keli Kincaid
WHNApastpresident@whnadallas.com

Committee Chairs:

VIP /Crime Watch Coordinator
Mike Gorman
WHNAvipcoordinator@whnadallas.com

Newsletter
Sonia Harms, Editor
WHNAnewsletter@whnadallas.com

Helen Meyer, Features
WHNAnewsfeatures@whnadallas.com

Social
Maija Wallace
WHNAsocial@whnadallas.com

Parks/Recycling
Carol Tobias
WHNAparks@whnadallas.com

Grounds and Improvements
Alan Ravkind
WHNAgrounds@whnadallas.com

Membership Drive Coordinator
Erik Russell
WHNAmembership@whnadallas.com

District 10 News from Councilwoman Kathy Stewart

The City Council has been actively debating and discussing several major issues: the future of the City Hall building; a potential partnership between DPD and ICE; whether to move municipal elections to November and a proposed developer fee designed to fund our parks. We also made significant progress toward a long-term plan for the Dallas Police and Fire pension.

Much of this work has taken place through multiple committee meetings – including specially called joint committee meetings of Public Safety and Government Efficiency and Finance and Economic Development. Through these discussions, my approach has been grounded in a few core principles:

- Making decisions that are financially responsible.
- Making decisions that strengthen our communities and bring support for our park system.
- Ensuring that we protect trust in our public safety system and support our Police Chief's leadership.
- Looking ahead to expand economic opportunities for our city.
- Creating avenues for all residents to have a voice – especially through voting.

The decisions over the last few weeks and those we are still facing will have a lasting impact on our city. These decisions need to be grounded in good reliable information as well as grounded in the realities we are facing – managing the pressures on our budget and acknowledging a growing demand for improving our basic services like streets, parks, libraries, the arts and public safety.

Every dollar of our budget must be directed where it produces the greatest benefit for the people of Dallas as well as strengthening our local government.

We will face obstacles to achieving our goals, but when we work together – plan well – and listen to our residents – we can overcome the challenges.

Meeting and Event Information from WHNA is being sent to members and other neighbors for whom we have email addresses, via community email.
If you would like to be added, send your name, street, and email address to: WHNAcommunications@gmail.com.

Summary of November WHNA Board Meeting

Attending were Lauren Haseltine, Cynthia Houck, Davene Morgan, Regan Paulsen, Erik Russell, Maija Wallace, Marc Richter, and Karen Botsford. Regan welcomed everyone.

Treasurer's report

Cynthia gave the treasurer's report. Erik brought up the possibility of getting a better interest rate on the Money Market if it were somewhere else, but it was decided to keep it at Inwood Bank for convenience and because we are well known there.

There was considerable discussion about the state of the walls around our subdivision, and we brought the newer members up to date of when and why the walls were built.

Crime Watch/VIP Report

Mike Gorman was not present so Regan read over his report. Maija asked Cynthia to send out an email about the upcoming VIP training. (Erik took the training and is our newest VIP.) Mike asked that the term Crime Watch/VIP be used since most people don't know what VIP means. (It means Volunteers in Patrol.)

Social Committee Report

Maija reviewed the Halloween party, saying it was success, and two new members were gained. There was discussion about possibly moving the party to the Chisholm cul-de-sac and hopefully adding a chili cook-off next year. It was thought that it might draw more people if it were held on perhaps the Saturday closest to Halloween instead of Halloween itself. It was suggested looking into students to help with tear down to help toward their volunteer hours. Maija proposed holding a dinner for volunteers in January

Because of so much discussion, we ran out of time before Regan could report on her survey results.

A Board Secretary is Still Needed.

Surely there are some good note takers among you.

Results from the Neighborhood Survey Will be Shared at January's Meeting.

WHNA membership is not required to attend Board meetings, and/or bring concerns, but is needed to vote.

Why Join WHNA?

From notes by former member and Membership Chair, Ron Hendry

As most know, our neighborhood is NEARLY 50 years old! For our homes to have plus value, those from outside have to want to move here. They have to like what they see when they drive around our neighborhood.

Our ability to maintain the neighborhood as a good place to live depends in part upon our getting along with our neighbors, including our willingness to do what is right for others as well as ourselves. It also depends upon our vigilance at maintaining our walls/ fences, yards, entrances and other features of our neighborhood.

WHNA is a voluntary association that facilitates enhanced and productive face to face civil contact among neighbors from one street to all other streets in the Whispering Hills addition. Also, the unpaid leaders of WHNA are our representatives to neighboring associations, schools, and city governments.

Some of what WHNA does for you:

• Maintains south Whispering Hills entrance.

• Maintains the southern and western brick walls along the railroad tracks.

• Represents your neighborhood with surrounding neighborhoods.

• Represents your neighborhood with officials from Dallas and adjoining cities.

• Provides board and chair members for you to have someone to contact on issues.

• Addresses ongoing neighborhood problems.

• Supports a very active Volunteer in Patrol (VIP) group aiding our security.

Whispering Hills Neighborhood Association serves and provides services for all residents, even nonmembers.

What you get socially depends upon your efforts within this framework. You are invited to actively participate in as many of the social programs as possible and be a volunteer for some current project that interests you, or a new one that you would like to promote.

RISD Named CTE District of Distinction

Richardson ISD has been named a 2026 CTE District of Distinction by the Career and Technical Association of Texas, a recognition earned by less than 6% of districts statewide!

This honor celebrates RISD's exceptional innovation, collaboration, and impact through real-world learning opportunities in preparing our students for success in the workforce.

Read more here:
risd.org/home/richardson-isd-is-named-cte-district-of-distinction/

Here are some of the many study areas offered:

Architecture and Construction
Digital Communications
Design & Multimedia Arts
Business
Entrepreneurship
Banking & Financial Services
Marketing & Sales
Teaching and Coaching
Cosmetology
Healthcare
Counseling & Mental Health
Barbering
Robotics
Drone Program
Animal Science
Law Enforcement
Programming & Software
Lodging & Resort Management
Culinary Arts
Automotive
Manufacturing Technology

RISD Magnet and Choice Schools Tours and Applications

Richardson ISD elementary magnet and choice school options offer specialized programs, with a focus on interest-based pathways, designed to engage students at an early age, in unique opportunities that meet their interests. The Elementary Magnet & Choice programs are open from Kindergarten to 6th grade.

Parents have an opportunity to choose from the following elementary magnet and choice school options:

- **Arapaho Classical Magnet -** Visual Arts, Performing Arts, Media Arts, and Applied Arts Magnet
- **Hamilton Park Pacesetter Magnet -** Leadership-focused magnet
- **MST Magnet -** STEM Engineering Magnet
- **Stults Road Elementary** - Two-Way Dual Language Choice Campus

These schools are offering campus tours from December through February. For dates, and to RSVP for a tour, visit the Magnet School's website.

Online applications are open Dec. 1, 2025 - Feb. 28, 2026.

Visit: https://web.risd.org/magnetschools/elementary-checklist/

Whispering Hills *Buy Nothing* on Facebook

Buy Nothing NE Dallas - North Lake Highlands/ Whispering Hills

Learn more here:
buynothingproject.org/about

No money changes hands, no membership fee.

Two Private Neighborhood Facebook Pages

Whispering Hills Families

Whispering Hills Neighborhood Association

Request to Join

There is also a public WHNA Facebook page.

City of Dallas Office of Emergency Management Alert System

The City of Dallas is committed to the safety and well-being of our residents. The DallasAlert program is an emergency notification system developed to enhance the ability of the City of Dallas to provide public safety related notifications to residents and businesses during emergencies.

DallasAlert is an opt-in only system. In order to receive alerts from DallasAlert via text, phone and email, you must register.

To sign up, text DALLAS to 67283.
Or visit DallasAlert.com

What Is Kratom?

Users swear by kratom for lifting mood and boosting energy, but there are many safety issues and questions about whether kratom works.

Kratom is a botanical substance coming from the plant Mitragyna speciosa native to places like Thailand and other regions of Southeast Asia. Kratom can, in effect, make someone "high" when abused. In Thailand, it is considered a controlled substance and the third most commonly abused illegal drug,

The FDA considers kratom to be a new dietary ingredient for which there is inadequate information to provide reasonable assurance that such an ingredient does not present a significant or unreasonable risk of illness or injury. Street Names: **Thang, Kakuam, Ketum, herbal speedball, Biak**.

Bulky Trash Fines Can Cost You $261

The fine is for early or late placement of bulk trash and for putting verified commercial bulk out repeatedly from home business operations.

There are also limits on the size of your pile. Google Dallas Sanitation. Click on Brush and Bulky Items.

New Registration Fees for Rental Properties

As of October 1st, the City of Dallas implemented updated rental property fees. Owners of single-family homes, duplexes, and condo units will now pay an annual fee of **$74 per unit**, while the multi-tenant property owners will pay **$13 per unit**, based on the total number of units on site, regardless of occupancy. Annual registration also requires submitting an online application, the Owner's Self-Inspection Checklist with affidavit, and compliance with City inspections--at least once every five years for single-family, duplex, and condo units, and at least once every three years for multi-tenant properties.

Owners can register on-line at
vgov.dallascityhall.com/home/services
For complete requirements,
see Chapter 27 of the Dallas City Code.

Crime Stats From October 15 - December 6

Submitted by Mike Gorman

Incidents Reported	No.
Suspicious Person/Persons	4
Mailbox Tampering	3
Random Gunfire Reports	3
Criminal Mischief	2
Disorderly Conduct	2
Suspicious Activity	2
Animal Attack	1
Break-in Motor Veh.-Prop. Theft	1
Domestic Violence	1
Drug Possession - School	1
Emergency Services. Call - Reported	1
Loud Music	1
Parking Violation	1
Police Activity Reported	1
Property Theft - Residence	1
Prowler Report	1
Reckless Damage - School	1
Total for Period	**27**

Join Crime Watch and the Newly Formed Commenter's Group

All you need to do is be willing to report suspicious activity or persons by text or email.
For information, send an email to Mike Gorman at:
WHNAvipcoordinator@whnadallas.com

Vaping Banned in Dallas Starting December 11th

That means no vaping in places where smoking is already prohibited, like indoor spaces, within 15 feet of entrances, and on park property. The new Ordinance #32933 was approved by the Dallas City Council. A one-year grace period was provided for the public, business owners, and operators to come into compliance.

To view the ordinance, proper disposal information, and for other details, visit: dallasclimateaction.com

CLASSIFIED ADS

This is a service for resident WHNA members.

Send name, address, phone, and email, along with ad copy, to:
WHNAnewsletter@whnadallas.com
Limit ad copy to 25 words or less. No graphics.

NEED PET CARE?

Neighborhood dogs & kitties give great reviews on the loving & watchful care!
References Available
Helen Meyer, 469-387-6094 (feature writer for newsletter).

PARK CITIES POWER WASH

Power washing, Soft washing
Window cleaning, Gutter cleaning
5-star rated. Insured
214-390-3377 Doug@parkcitiespowerwash.com

DIRECT REALTY

Alan Ravkind - REALTOR
For help buying or selling real estate call 214-616-1198
Resident of Whispering Hills since 1991

PERSONAL TOUCH TREE SERVICE

Neighborhood Certified Arborist Fully insured
Providing all your tree care needs
All trimming cleaned up and hauled off
214-328-7213

YOUR REALTY NEIGHBOR

Joshua Pool
Offering representation with listing/purchasing residential property
Free Comparative Market Analysis to support a tax protest
972-978-7701 pool.joshua@gmail.com

SPRINKLER REPAIR

20 years experience and Texas licensed irrigator
Happily serving my Whispering Hills neighbors
Call/Text Henry 469-207-6825
SurgicalSprinklerRepair@gmail.com

MARY KAY Independent Beauty Consultant

Wendy Phynes-Jennings, Star Team Builder
Inspiring Women's Lives--I bring beauty to you.
Website: marykay.com/wendyphynesjennings
Email:wendyphynes12@gmail.com
972-679-0570

North Park Offering Free Kids' Events Through December 24th

On Level One in North Court

STORIES AND SONGS WITH SANTA

Kids can learn more about what life is like at the North Pole from Santa himself when they visit him at his cottage. Santa will perform songs and tell intriguing tales.

Daily through Dec. 24 at 10:30 a.m. Monday through Saturday and 11:30 a.m. Sunday .

SCROOGE PUPPET THEATRE

The beloved Christmas character Scrooge will host a daily puppet show filled with fresh songs, jokes and playful banter. Let the kids enjoy a visit with Scrooge while you take care of your Christmas shopping.

Daily through Dec. 24 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday

THE TALE OF THE YETI'S CHRISTMAS SPAGHETTI

Here's a Christmas tale your kids won't want to miss. Santa fears that a massive storm might cancel Christmas, so he calls on his elves and a mysterious yeti to help save the holiday.

Every half-hour through Dec. 24 from 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 12:30 to 5:30 p.m. Sunday.

Check Out Events at the Dallas Public Library

Go to:
https://dallaslibrary.librarymarket.com/events/upcoming

You will find free events for all ages listed, including Chanukah and Kwanzaa, traditional tea party demonstration, Chinese Majong, and yoga among many other offerings. Choices and emphasis of topics differ among branches. You can select branches from a list.

A Dallas Library card is required. Here's how to get one if don't already have one:

dallaslibrary.org/services/library-card

Where Are the Love letters to Neighbors?

None were submitted this time. Neighbors who saw them had positive reactions to the idea. Do you have one to share for the February newsletter? It only has to be a couple of sentences.

Start Sending Comments About Your Experience Living in Whispering Hills or Things a Neighbor Has Done For You to: *WHNAnewsletter@whnadallas.com*

Tentative 2026 Social Schedule

Watch Email for Updates as date nears.

2/21 (Sat) 1pm - Love Your Neighborhood Desert Out - Braum's
3/24 (Tues) 6pm - WHNA Dine-Out - Lakewood Brewing
4/11 (Sat) 10:30am - Egg Hunt, Friendship Park
5/27 Tues 6pm - WHNA Dine-Out - Another Time & Place Grille
6/23 (Tues) 6pm - WHNA Dine-Out - Pho Bac
7/28 (Tues) 6pm - WHNA Dine-Out - Afrah
8/25 (Tues) 6pm - WHNA Dine-Out - Yummy Thai
9/22 (Tues) 6pm - WHNA Dine-Out - Desperado's
Week of October 19 - Best Halloween home decor selected
10/30 (Fri) 6pm - Halloween Party & Chili Cook-Off
Week of December 14 - Best holiday home decor selected and acknowledged

Halloween Party

WHNA held the Halloween Party on Halloween Night. In attendance were lots of babies and toddlers, along with parents, grandparents and neighbors, who enjoyed coming in costume. Missing were many of the school-aged kids who were eager to gather treats throughout the neighborhood. The Social Committee is considering holding the event before Halloween next year.

There was good food, along with delicious, baked pumpkin desserts whose bakers were entered into contest. The kids enjoyed pumpkin painting and other activities.











Watch for reminder signs posted on Whispering Hills on the Thursday before pick-up week.

NEXT PICK-UP WEEKS BEGIN:

December 22 and January 26

(always the 4th Monday week, not the last, week of the month)

Set trash out on curb beginning Thursdays

December 18 and January 22

BEFORE 7am on the Monday of pick-up week.

Separate bulky trash from brush.

No glass, electronics, or garbage

Get the 2025 schedule, and reminder texts, at: dallascityhall.com/sanitation

Take These Items to the Chemical Collection Center at 11234 Plano Rd, Dallas 75243:

Chemical products	Cleaners & polishes
Aerosol sprays	Computers & cell phones
Batteries of all kinds	Fluorescent light tubes
Paint & home repair products	
Automotive fluids & oil filters	

Call 214-553-1765 for hours of operation.

What Goes into the Blue Bin?

NO Garbage or Yard Debris

ONLY The Items Listed Below

(Do Not Put Items in Plastic Trash Bags)

Glass Bottles and Jars--**NO** window glass, light bulbs, fluorescent tubes, ceramics, mirrors or Pyrex

Plastics--containers (rinsed) labelled #1-5 & 7 (found at the base of the container in the recycling emblem) **NO** plastic grocery bags (take those to the grocery store). **NO** plastic wrap, plastic utensils, chemical containers or Styrofoam

Metals--steel, tin and aluminum **(cans) NO** foil or foil containers used for baking; no electronics or toys

Paper Products and Cardboard--newspapers, books (both paper and hardback) magazines, catalogs, envelopes, food and detergent boxes, paper egg cartons, 1-pack drink cartons, cereal boxes, folded corrugated and cardboard boxes

NO food contaminated boxes, or plastic or foil-lined boxes. **NO** shredded paper

Order new or replacement roll carts at: dallascityhall.com/departments/sanitation

WHNA WHISPERING HILLS *A Community of Neighbors*

2026 WHNA Membership Form

2025.ND.NL

Name(s):

_____

Address: _____

_____ <Person 1 Person 2> _____

_____ Home/Cell **Phone** Home/Cell _____

Please indicate if number is home or cell number.

_____ **eMail** _____

eMail address will be added to the email blast system for community meetings and events.

Dues :$50 (Minimum Donation) (tax deductible) Additional Donation: $____ (Crime Watch/VIP, Admin. expenses, Other _____) (tax deductible)

I would like my information to be included in the 2026 membership directory (circle one):

YES NO

Please indicate your interest in helping in one or more of the following ways:

☐ Volunteer Crime Patroller ☐ Making phone calls ☐ Attending Dallas civic and government meetings
☐ Distributing newsletters or directories ☐ Helping at neighborhood social events
☐ Judging Yard of the Month/Christmas Lights ☐ Working your street/block for the membership drive
☐ Serving on the Board or committee ☐ Other

Send check (made payable to WHNA) to WHNA at 10323 Cimmaron Trail, Dallas, TX 75243.
For PayPal/Venmo go to www.whnadallas.com. (PayPal auto renewal available.)

2026 Membership Period—January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026