

Meeting Notes from CVH Monthly Meeting - August 30, 2011

In Emily's absence due to illness, Tami Beck opened the meeting by welcoming everyone, and introducing the board members present. She gave us an update on Emily, who is improving, and hopefully next month, she will be back with us! You're in all our prayers, Emily! And thanks to everyone in the neighborhood who signed up for the food ministry for Justin and Emily. You just prove what a great neighborhood we have here!

Tami then introduced our neighborhood officer from Dallas Police, Officer Ed Ducayet.

Officer Ducayet was back from Naval Reserve Duty in Korea. Thank you for your service, Officer Ducayet! His first report was in reference to an aggravated robbery that occurred on Newcombe. The robbery involved a man who was trimming trees, and he was robbed of his wallet at gunpoint. Please continue to be aware of your surroundings, and if you see a car idling that looks out of place, please notify police. There have been four times in the past month in our neighborhood where the police have stopped someone either in a car or walking and discovered drugs on them. It's disturbing to have this much drug activity, but it's good to know that the police are patrolling and enforcing; and it's often in response to someone calling in a report of suspicious activity. Back in July there were several cars stolen, and many of these involved drug activity. We also had four separate calls from our neighborhood about suspicious people, and this is a very good thing, since it shows our neighbors are paying attention to what's going on in the neighborhood. It was also suggested by the copper theft detectives that people paint their copper wiring so that if it's stolen, and the thief tries to sell it, DPD will be notified. Also, not everyone is aware, but A/C units do have serial numbers, so be sure and write down the number on yours and keep that number in a safe place. A/C unit thefts and copper thefts are a huge problem, and unfortunately, it's only getting worse.

We had several officers in attendance, including Sr. Corporal Hammond and Sr. Corporal Browning. Thanks to DPD for the great representation at the meeting!

We also need more Volunteers In Patrol, and the classes are being offered regularly by the Dallas Police Department. Some are held downtown, and some are held at the Northeast Substation on East Northwest Highway. The schedule of classes will be posted on the web site at www.casaviewhaven.org.

Two happy notes: The little black and white dog that I saw on the way to the meeting has found a home, thanks to the folks at Operation Kindness. Lisa Morgan gave a lot of time taming him down, and Enzo (as I named him) was placed in a wonderful home!

Thanks to Emily and Tami, another little border collie/blue heeler mix puppy has found a foster home, and we're in the process of trying to find him a home. If you know someone looking for a wonderful puppy, please call me about Peanut. She is a doll, and without Tami and Emily, would still be wandering the street.

A new resident to the neighborhood is Cheryl Daniels on Materhorn

Yard of the Month went to Mary Mendoza on San Lorenzo. Kudos to Mary because a beautiful yard is a real challenge with this weather. Congratulations, Mary!

Jeanette Prasifka gave us an update on the Storm Drain Marking Project. The City of Dallas Storm Water Management Department provides decals that are used to mark each of the storm drains in the city, and the decals say, "No Dumping - Drains to Creek" in both English and Spanish. The items that are not supposed to be put into a storm drain include grass clippings, household chemicals, dog poop, etc. Jeanette has made a commitment to mark all of the storm drains in our neighborhood, including the area between Ferguson and Garland Road and Peavy and Gus Thomason. There is a Storm Drain Team, also known as Storm Troopers, and there are currently nine people on the team, but we need more people. If you're interested in helping, what you would do is take your bag of supplies that you're provided and your city generated GIS Map that has all the storm drains marked, go to the storm drain you're marking, dust it off, take the tube of glue, put it on the back of the decal, put the decal on the storm drain, and then observe how much debris is in the drain, and mark the information on your map, and indicate how much debris is in the drain. If it's full, the City will send someone out to clean out the drain. This is an environmentally friendly project, and one that's beneficial to all of us. Jeanette would love to have this project completed by the end of the year, if possible. The City of Dallas is now starting to enforce the ordinance that prohibits blowing leaves and glass into the gutters, and if your yard maintenance people do this, you, the homeowner, will be the one who gets the ticket, so please also educate your yard maintenance people about this. Also if you see someone out wearing the neon orange vest and marking the drains, please take the time to stop and thank them for what they're doing because it will benefit all of us. If you're interested in helping, contact Jeanette Prasifka. Her number is on the Casa View Haven web site.

Tami introduced Melissa Rosales to the group. Melissa is the person who does all of our web site work, and she does a fantastic job! Thank you, Melissa!!! Melissa has now added a place on the web site where you can make donations online. There will also be a PayPal account set up so you can make donations via PayPal if you want. And there is a donation box located on the sign in table at every meeting if you would prefer to make donations that way.

Tami introduced Bob Curry who spoke about redistricting. Tami Beck and Amanda Buckley have been very involved in attending meetings and keeping tuned in about what's happening regarding redistricting. Residents in the Greater Casa View Alliance, which is Casa View Haven, Harry Stone, basically from Buckner all the way up to 635, have all been concerned about how we vote for them and who we vote for. After the census every ten years, the City Council appoints a commission of their representatives who meet a lot and the bottom line for us is, if this passes, it's now down to one recommended redistricting option, it's one that's called the Political Solution, which means that it's gerrymandered in a way (they're all gerrymandered) that will support the people currently in office. So if you like who you've currently got representing you, vote for it, but it's not cast in stone. The public hearings have all been completed. It now goes to council for

voting, and will be voted on sometime in the next month or so, and then it goes to Federal Court because they have to bless it. The changes on the margin of the maps are very similar. It's essentially the same district we have now. They're trying to make the districts a bit more compact. We have 86,350 human beings, and of those, about 65,000 of us get to vote. The racial breakdown is 38% Hispanic, 11% black and 47% white. Tune into this, and if you care about it and want to voice your opinion, contact your councilman. Email Sheffie Kedane if you have feelings about this. Go to the Dallas City Hall web site (www.dallascityhall.com) and read all about redistricting. You can read about alternate plans. The bottom line is, if you want to vote for the plan that's currently submitted (The Domingo Garcia Plan), then don't say anything. If you think it should be different (for example, one plan created a brand new district that would be a Hispanic district), voice your opinions to your councilman.

Also, two code items that Bob Curry brought up. We have some bulk trash issues in this part of town, part of which is caused by the drought. We have trees that are dropping limbs, and if you have had this happen and put the limbs out at a time that's not designated for bulk trash, thanks to Bob Curry, Code won't go after you for a bulk trash violation while this is going on. The other item is Roll Carts, for garbage and recycling. These need to go to the side of your house or in the rear. They are not to be in front of your garage or on your front porch, and this is being enforced now. Thanks, Bob, for all this information.

Jeanette Prasifka, who founded OldWornFlag.com, did the drawing for the flag this month. She asks only that if you win, please display the flag; don't hide it away in a closet. The flag presented is made in the U.S.A., and the winner was one of our residents on San Lorenzo (sorry, I didn't get the name).

Last of all, it was requested that we put out a box to collect Box Tops for Education to benefit Reinhardt Elementary. We'll be getting a box for this purpose.

Tami closed the meeting by telling everyone that if you have any ideas or questions, please send an email to any board member and we'll get back to you. Coming up in October, we're going to have another National Night Out, and we're going to be gearing up for that. The location will be determined, and we're going to be working on this. She then adjourned the meeting.