



## NEW KRAMER ELEMENTARY PRE-SCHOOL GROUP

Neighbor Abby Mayer has formed a new pre-school group, the Kramer Elementary Preschool Association. It is for parents and families with young children that live in the attendance zone for Kramer Elementary School, although your children don't have to be Kramer-bound to join in the fun.

The goal of the group is to provide enjoyable opportunities for parents to get to know each other, share information regarding area schools and kid-friendly activities, and offer education on child development – all while building a more connected neighborhood.

For more information, please contact Abby (who lives on Baxtershire Drive) at [abbymayer4@gmail.com](mailto:abbymayer4@gmail.com). Thanks, Abby!

## THROWING AWAY “BOXTOPS”?



Our local Kramer Elementary collects “Boxtops For Education” coupons, the tiny coupons found on BigG (General Mills) cereals, Progresso soups, and dozens of other grocery store items. Each one is worth 10c to the PTA, and of course the money is used to provide “extras” for the kids. Last year, Kramer added \$800 to their fund this way. If you can save a bunch of them, mail them to the PTA at Kramer, 7131 Midbury Drive, 75230. It adds up!

You can also register for additional Boxtop specials which will go to Kramer. On the web, go to [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com), register, and select Arthur Kramer Elementary as your designated school. The web site also has many coupon specials each month.

KEEP UP TO DATE  
[HILLCRESTFOREST.ORG](http://HILLCRESTFOREST.ORG)

## 2013-2014 STEERING COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT

**Bruce Wilke**

VICE PRESIDENT

**Kristin Malmberg**

SECRETARY

**Jaynie Schultz**

TREASURER

**Cathy Gilberg**

ZONING

**Keith Cross**

HISTORIAN

**Jane Pak**

LIAISON

**Renée Saulnier**

MEMBERSHIP

**Lorraine Hellinghausen**

GEOGRAPHIC REPS

**Becky Brakke**

**Cris Robinson**

**Darleen Robertson**

**Audrey Naarden**

AT LARGE

**Marti Doran**

**Sammie Gatti**

**Wendy Palmer**

NEWSLETTER

**Melinda Cato Cross**

MAILING

**Audrey Naarden**

DIRECTORY

**Germaine O'Donnell**

HOME TOUR:

**Melinda & Keith Cross**

WELCOME COMMITTEE

**Germaine O'Donnell**

JULY 4TH PARADE

**Charleen Dowell**



# Hillcrest Forest Neighborhood Association

[HillcrestForest.org](http://HillcrestForest.org)

Spring 2014

## ANNUAL MEETING & HOME TOUR MAY 10TH



Please mark your calendar to attend our association's Annual Meeting on Saturday, May 10, at 1:00 p.m. Note that the location this year will again be at the Churchill Recreation Center, at the intersection of Hillcrest Road and Churchill Way.

After a brief meeting, we will adjourn for the 7th annual HFNA Home Tour, which is always popular, and this year will be no exception. The tour is only for members – it is not open to the public – and you will have a chance to see some classic and elegant homes in our neighborhood. The addresses will be distributed at the end of the meeting. Don't miss it!

## UNITY CHURCH PROPERTY REZONED

On February, 12, the Dallas City Council approved the re-zoning of the vacant east half of the Unity Church property on Forest Lane, west of Hillcrest. It had previously been zoned for 7-8 homes on large lots. It is now zoned for 18 high-value homes on smaller lots similar to others on Forest Lane, still single-family.



An attractive front wall will be set back from 15 to 40 feet from Forest Lane, meandering through a 40-60 foot deep greenbelt. The greenbelt will be landscaped and preserve 12 of the existing trees at the front.

Various agreements were reached with the neighbors to the east and north to add the landscaping, install a left turn lane, increase building setbacks, and improve privacy. Subject to those agreements, the Hillcrest Forest Neighborhood Association supported the application. Preserving green space on Forest Lane (as opposed to a brick wall at the street) will benefit our entire neighborhood.

For more information, go to our web site, [HillcrestForest.org](http://HillcrestForest.org).

## LETTER FROM PRESIDENT BRUCE WILKE



You may have heard that Kramer Elementary lost several major pieces of playground equipment recently, worn out after 25 years – a whole generation of kids. This has left our neighborhood school with just a partial playground.

The play area is used not only by our local kids who attend Kramer, but also after school and on weekends by many other neighborhood children who are either pre-school or attend other schools. It is essentially the only nearby park with that kind of equipment for children.

Kramer is known as one of the top schools in DISD, and it is within our HFNA boundaries, and we believe that it adds value to our neighborhood. Home buyers have bought here, just to be in the Kramer district.

Therefore, the HFNA has joined with the Kramer PTA to raise funds to help replace the play equipment. Kramer benefits everyone.

If you can help (and I hope you can), please write a check to the Kramer PTA and mail it to me, and I will present it along with all of our checks to Kramer. We would like them to know that this is from our Hillcrest Forest neighborhood, for the children at Kramer and the children in our neighborhood. Or you can mail it directly to Kramer if you like.

It would be wonderful if we could raise several thousand dollars for play equipment for the kids. The PTA is a 501(c)3 for tax purposes, so contributions are tax deductible if you itemize. Any help will be appreciated, and we will publish the list of donors in our Fall newsletter. I hope that you will help us restore the Kramer playground!

Mail your check (made out to the Kramer PTA) to:  
Bruce Wilke 7227 North Janmar Dr. Dallas, TX 75230

Thank you!  
Bruce Wilke, President, Hillcrest Forest Neighborhood Association

## NORTHAVEN TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS

In 2013, our association led a campaign to install a beautiful, semi-circular 3-bench seating area on the new Northaven Trail in our neighborhood. The benches are massive stone blocks and will last virtually forever. Over 120 generous members made donations in support. Their names appeared in last year's Good Neighbor Directory.



Two months ago, the HFNA (again with the financial support of some wonderful neighbors) arranged to install a pet waste disposal station on the Trail, just a short distance from our seating area at St. Judes Drive. This will give everyone who uses the Trail a convenient place to pick up a plastic bag and dispose of dog droppings so we can keep our neighborhood clean.

continued

The HFNA worked through the trail's support group (Friends of Northaven Trail) and the City, both of whom were extremely helpful, and we would like to thank them and especially the following families and individuals who graciously opened their checkbooks to make it happen:

Roy & Bonnie Crook	Tracey & Justin Bailey
Michael & Vicki McIntosh	Mary Beth & Barry Schwarz
Kendall & Claire Stone	Joan & Jerome Lane
Kristin Malmberg & Walter Duncan	Rhonda Grubbs & Newt Cunningham
Deanna & Larry Williams	Jenny & Howard Cohen
Bill Boyd	Michele & Michael Kettles
Byron Kisner	

We have so many great members, and we appreciate the support!



## NEW POLICE PATROL REDUCES CRIME

It has been a little over a year since the Hillcrest East Crime Watch launched the 5 Star ENP (Expanded Neighborhood Patrol), the private Police Patrol in the HFNA area south of Forest Lane and east of Hillcrest Road. In the first 10 months, numbers from the Dallas police department indicate a 20% reduction in thefts, burglaries, and vehicular-related crimes there.

The 5 Star ENP is not part of the HFNA, but most of our members in that area belong to both groups, and we share a common interest in improving security and reducing crime in our neighborhood. Membership is only \$10 a month (payable annually), which is a bargain for this type of service. In other neighborhoods, it costs as much as \$50 a month.

Our thanks to everyone who lives in the Police Patrol area for their support, and we hope that you will continue to support the program. It makes the entire neighborhood safer. And a special thanks to Beverly Houston on Azalea Lane, who leads the ENP, and our neighborhood Volunteers In Patrol, who supplement it. The fact that we have a private police patrol is also a selling point to prospective home buyers.

We have been asked by those who live outside of the current patrol area: How can they get a police patrol? The answer: It requires a volunteer with the time to organize it and then administer it. That requires several hours a month, ongoing. If you live north of Forest or west of Hillcrest and are willing to lead a Police Patrol, please let us know!

REPORT ANY SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY TO 911

