

Forest West Newsletter

Neighbors Celebrate the Holiday Season

Kendra Yarbrough-Camarena, Civic Committee President



FWCIA BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT

David Ojeman
david@forestwest.com
713-682-2153

VICE PRESIDENT

Kirk Waldron
kirk@forestwest.com
713-688-2627

TREASURER

Tonya Cantu
tonya@forestwest.com

SECRETARY

Alice Ott
alice@forestwest.com
713-682-4288

**ARCHITECTURAL CONTROL & DEED
RESTRICTIONS**

Ben Tuma
ben@forestwest.com
832-876-9797

POOL DIRECTOR

Open

DIRECTOR

Tom Demary
tom@forestwest.com

The Civic Committee would like to thank all of those involved in coordinating, setting up, cooking, and tearing down this year's Annual Cajun Christmas Party. Neighbors, new and old, enjoyed a delicious gumbo feast prepared by Tom Demary, and they also enjoyed appetizers/desserts prepared by the great residents of Forest West. Each child was presented a book and candy bag. We look forward to planning more great events for the spring and summer. The next civic committee meeting will be held January 26th, 7:00pm, at the Forest West Community Center.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE FWCIA ANNUAL BOARD MEETING & ELECTIONS ARE ON 2/2/16 (SEE PAGE 4)

Spring Gardening Tips

Phyllis Herrington, FW Garden Club member

Now is a good time to get to work on our vegetable gardens. The ideal vegetable garden area needs full to nearly full sunlight and has well-drained, fertile soil. The garden should have a water faucet close but not be near shrubs or trees that compete for water and nutrients. If your soil is heavy clay like most in Houston are, adding organic matter, sand or gypsum will help it. To improve clay soil, add about 1 to 2 inches of good sand and 2 to 3 inches of compost. Be sure to mix and thoroughly blend the elements and soil together. If your soil is heavy clay, also add gypsum at the rate of 6 to 8 pounds per 100 square feet.

(Continued on next page)

Holiday Decoration Winners



Best Traditional



Best Religious



Most Original

The winners of the Annual Forest West Garden Club Christmas Display contest were Ruby Schell on Autumn Forest, Pam and David Ojeman, on Greenmont, and Renè and Monica Felix on Golden Forest. Photos could not fully capture the beauty of these displays. Many more residents captured the spirit of friendly competition this year, and we look forward to the upcoming year of competition. – A few residents have already begun planning their displays for 2016! The Garden Club felt that a special award should be given this year to the “best block.” This new award goes out to our neighbors on the 5900 and 6000 block of Spruce Forest!

COMMUNICATIONS

Nan Whomes, E-Mail Program Manager
 nan@forestwest.com, 713-688-3957
 Visit forestwest.com to sign up

The Forest West Newsletter is published in September, December, January, and May. To contribute an article, suggest articles, or give newsletter feedback, please contact Elizabeth Tuma, Newsletter Editor, at elizabeth.fwcc@gmail.com

Important Contacts

Texas Poison Control 1-800-222-1222
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 Houston 311 713-837-0311
 ** To report illegal dumping, water pollution, chemical or gas odors in Houston, call the City of Houston Hotline at 713-525-2728

POOL & WEBSITE MANAGER

Terry Green
 terry@forestwest.com

BEACON RESIDENTIAL MANAGEMENT

Brent Miller
 brent@brmtexas.com
 713-466-1204

Gardening Tips (continued)

Now that your soil is ready, you need to decide what vegetables to grow. It is important to select the right variety of each vegetable. If you plant the wrong variety for our area you may not get much of a crop, no matter how much care you give the plants. Varieties of vegetables that have been reported to grow well in Houston are Bonanza and Gypsy broccoli, Snow Crown, Majestic and violet Queen cauliflower, Merit and Silver Queen corn, Purple Rain eggplant, 1015 bulb-type onions, Big Bertha or Blushing Beauty peppers, Better Boy, Beefmaster and Early Girl Tomatoes and Cherry Belle or Champion radishes—all of which will work in a smaller garden. Head lettuces don't do as well here so select a good leaf lettuce such as Butter Crunch Bibb or Little Caesar Romaine if you want lettuce in your garden.

It's also a good idea to use a fertilizer such as 10-20-10 or 12-24-12 applied at 1 to 2 pounds per 100 square feet for your garden and try to keep your garden free of weeds, insects and disease. Thin the young plants to deter excessive competition for nutrients. Water deeply as needed. Keep an eye on your garden to try to stay ahead of any problems and enjoy your vegetables!



Forest West Garden Club members gather for their annual holiday party. Photo taken by Ivey Sauls

Garden Club News

Members of the Forest West Garden Club met in December for their yearly holiday party. Members brought delectable sides and desserts for the meal, and the club gathered donations for the Katy Prairie Conservancy.

Now is the time to plant fruit trees. Urban Harvest will host its 16th Annual Fruit Tree Sale on Saturday, January 16th. Over one hundred varieties and thousands of fruit trees, which are acclimated to Houston's climate and soil, will be offered. The sale will take place at Rice University's Greenbriar Lot, 5600 Greenbriar Drive, Houston TX 77005. Garden Club advises that you arrive early to get the best selection – the sale is from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm (or until everything sells out).

The next Garden Club meetings are as follows:

Pruning, Deadheading, and Seeds - Tuesday, February 9th at 7pm.

Wine Goblet Art – Tuesday, March 8th at 7pm.

Thrillers, Fillers, and Spillers – Tuesday, April 12th at 7pm.

*Heavy Trash (yard waste only) January 28th & March 24th
Heavy Trash (waste and yard) February 25th & April 28th*

FWCIA Annual Board Meeting & Elections will be held at Advent Lutheran Church, Feb. 2, 7pm

David Ojeman, FWCIA Board President

A new year has begun, and we hope that everyone had a joyous holiday season. Our annual open FWCIA Board meeting and election of board members and officers will be Tuesday, February 2nd 7:00pm, at Advent Lutheran Church, which is located at 5820 Pinemont Drive. Please plan on attending. If a representative from your household cannot attend the meeting to place your vote, please fill and return the proxy before the specified deadline. Proxies will be coming in the mail from Beacon Residential Management. As always, it is important that we have a quorum at the annual meeting.

The yearly assessments are now due. Please pay before Feb 1st to avoid late fees. If you cannot make payment in full, please contact Brent Miller at 713-466-1204 to arrange a payment plan.

Forest West is a deed-restricted community; restrictions are enforced. Deed Restrictions are available on our website at forestwest.com or by written request to: FWCIA, P.O. Box 3488, Houston, TX 77253

FWCIA

P.O. Box 3488
Houston, TX 77253