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GRAND OPENING OF THE WHITE ROCK HILLS
BRANCH LIBRARY IS JUNE 16!
SEE PAGE 2 FOR YOUR INVITATION



Celebrating Our New White Rock Hills Library!

by Max & Denise Davis

Join us on Saturday, June 16th, when we celebrate the Grand Opening of the White Rock Hills Branch Library at 9150 Ferguson Road. This will be an event-filled, fun day in Far East Dallas. Everyone is invited! Our long-time dream of building a library has finally arrived. The theme for the day, Dreams Come True, is an invitation to our community's children to dress up as their favorite fairy tale or storybook character. Festivities begin promptly at 10 a.m. with a ceremonial parade.

The parade will be led by African drummers and dancers, children in costumes, marchers with giant stick puppets, representatives from local civic groups, businesses, neighborhoods, school, churches, Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops, and White Rock Hills Library Friends. The parade will march along Hibiscus Street, from Ferguson Road to the library parking lot, a distance of about two blocks.

Join the Parade!

Show pride in your neighborhood, civic group, school, business, or faith community by marching in the parade with signs or banners representing your group. If you want to join the parade, please arrive no later than 9:30 a.m. at the parade assembly area in the parking lot in front of the White Rock Church of Christ Fellowship Hall at 9220 Ferguson Road. Plan to arrive early and walk to the staging area after parking in one of the adjacent parking lots at Bethel Baptist, First Community, New Creation, Golden Gate churches, or Roy Stanley Lodge. Hibiscus Street will be closed to through traffic for our parade. Elderly or disabled persons may park in the library parking lot. Please note that motorized vehicles are not permitted in the parade. Pedestrians only, please. Bicycles are permitted, however.

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Following the parade will be a ribbon cutting ceremony including key officials from the City of Dallas, the Dallas Public Library System, and familiar faces from FRI. The Dallas Police Choir will perform, along with a Mariachi band and other musical groups. After the ribbon cutting ceremony, the fun continues both outside and inside the new facility. There will be storytellers, authors, musical groups, a children's photography exhibition, art demonstrations and other fun activities for children and parents. Artists will be creating clay sculpture, chalk murals, encaustic painting (painting with wax), and more. Vendors will have special displays of interest to the community. "White Rock Hills Library Friends" will have volunteers inside the library touring our visitors and helping "first-timers" obtain a library card. And of course, there will be an FRI table set up where you can join the FRI Community Connection.

Food and drinks will be served throughout the day. Activities are ongoing until 4 p.m. Do not miss this festive and memorable day!



You are cordially invited to join Councilwoman Carolyn R. Davis, the **FRI** Community Connection and the City of Dallas in the grand opening of our Dream Come True . . .

White Rock Hills Branch Library

SATURDAY
JUNE
16th

10 A.M.- 4 P.M.

9150

FERGUSON ROAD
DALLAS, TEXAS 75228

Bring the family and celebrate the grand opening of the **White Rock Hills Branch Library**.

It will be a fun day with activities for young and old! Come and enjoy demonstrations, storytellers and Aztec dancers, Dallas Police Choir, African Drummers, Mariachi Band and much more!

Come at 9:30 a.m. and be part of the **PARADE!** Children may dress-up as their favorite storybook character. The parade will assemble at White Rock Hills Church of Christ at 9220 Ferguson Road. Parking is available at surrounding church parking lots.



A collaborative
community project of:



For more information:

Call: (214) 324-5116 or email
mariavalenzuela@fergusonroad.org



How to Help

If you want to help out with the Grand Opening, please contact Max Davis at maxdavis1950@gmail.com. To join the White Rock Hills Library Friends, contact John Van Buskirk at friends@wrhlf.org

"Libraries are more than just brick and mortar boxes that house books and computers. They are free educational, learning, and entertainment centers that help improve the lives of the communities they serve. It does not matter who you are, how much money you make, or what age you are; all are welcome."

Sandra King,
White Rock Hills Library Branch Manager



FRI would like to thank our Community Connection Founder's Circle members for their annual pledge to FRI for three years.



FRI also wants to thank the sponsors of the White Rock Hills Branch Library VIP Preview and Grand Opening Celebration.

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\$5,000 a year for 3 years

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It is not too late to become a sponsor! Contact Maria at MariaValenzuela@FergusonRoad.org for more information

It's a New Day for FRI and Far East Dallas

by Executive Director Alice Zaccarello

2011 was an ambitious and transitional year for the Ferguson Road Initiative. Our U.S. Department of Justice Weed & Seed Grant ended in April 2011. Over the decade of this grant we reduced crime, increased neighborhood associations and Crime Watch groups, placed needed services in schools and other community sites, raised over \$30M in bond and City of Dallas funds for needed community improvements like a skate park and spray park, improved roads and sidewalks, flood mitigation and a library, all of which are enhancing the lives of the people of Far East Dallas. These are just a few of the projects we have realized in the past 14 years. Although we have graduated from *Weed & Seed*, we know there is still more to be done in Far East Dallas to maintain our vision of complete economic revitalization.



FRI Community Connection

With the completion of our grant, we knew that sustainable funding for daily operations would now have to come from within Far East Dallas and special projects would be funded through grants. From a committee comprised of local business leaders, the FRI Community Connection has emerged and is working together to unite commerce and community in Far East Dallas. FRI wants to see our local businesses thrive through the support of our residents. By building relationships between businesses, nonprofit organizations, faith communities, neighborhood organizations, the City of Dallas, elected officials, law enforcement, schools and apartments, FRI Community Connection can continue to build on the work of the past and fulfill our future goals for Far East Dallas.

In November, to kick off the Community Connection, FRI held a breakfast rally hosted by Highland Park Cafeteria and attended by more than 200 people. Mayor Mike Rawlings lauded our accomplishments, and our new U.S. Attorney for the Northern District, Sarah Saldana, presented FRI with a graduation proclamation celebrating our accomplishments through Operation Weed & Seed. When FRI President Vikki Martin received the graduation citation, we officially stepped into the next phase of our growth and development. It is now a new day for the Ferguson Road Initiative and Far East Dallas.

To date, we proudly announce that the FRI Community Connection has 203 members. In 6 months we have more than doubled our membership! Plus, our Founder's Circle of 19 visionary businesses, local leaders and individuals have stepped up with significant gifts of multi-year pledges of financial support. Our Founder's Circle are individuals who truly understand the value of a community advocacy organization and who see firsthand the tremendous positive change that is happening in Far East Dallas through FRI.

Among these individuals, a group of impressive businessmen and business women have stepped forward to lead the Community Connection. Doug Thompson, owner of BigDCruise and supporter

of the Lakeland Hills Crimewatch, chairs the Event Committee. They have created a monthly Community Connection Breakfast that meets the third Wednesday of each month from 7:30 to 8:45 a.m. Watch the Eblast for the location; it changes from month to month. (If you are not on the eblast list email, go to our website www.fergusonroad.org and join.) These monthly meetings provide networking opportunities, timely programs, and ideas for community improvements. The meetings are open to members and non-members.

Ryan Holloway, Owner of Holloway Benefit Solutions and supporter of the Alger Park Neighborhood, is chairing the Membership Committee. This committee is comprised of dedicated FRI members who are visiting local businesses, apartments, nonprofits, and the faith community to introduce them to the FRI Community Connection.

Max and Denise Davis, the co-presidents of Little Forest Hills Neighborhood Association, are heading up the Library Committee, which is planning all the festivities for the opening of the White Rock Hills Library.

If you would like to be involved with any committee, please email me at alicezaccarello@fergusonroad.org and I will put you in touch with the appropriate leader.

The Grand Opening of our White Rock Hills Library is truly a Dream Come True. First envisioned 17 years ago, the library is now coming to fruition. Our library will be a place to help folks find a job; learn how to grow a small business; borrow books, journals, and movies; learn about technology; get the tools to re-enter the workforce; and improve skills. Our new library will provide free WiFi, meeting space, computers, and help with early literacy skills. FRI is the "engine" that drove the creation of the library in our community. We strategically raised more than \$8.5 M in bond funding to make it a reality. Once our library is open, FRI will turn our attention towards the building of our community and recreation center.

It's a New Day for FRI and Far East Dallas! ■



FRI President Vikki Martin and Mayor Mike Rawlings at the November 2011 Community Connection breakfast

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

I want to join the Ferguson Road Initiative (FRI) Community Connection.

(Check your desired membership level below)

Individual and Nonprofit Membership:

- Household @ \$50 per year
- Nonprofit and Churches @ \$70 per year
- Neighborhood Associations @ \$70 per year
- Patron @ \$100 per year

Business Membership:

- 1 to 10 employees @ \$175 per year
- 11 to 50 employees @ \$375 per year
- 51 to 100 employees @ \$575 per year
- 101 to 500 employees @ \$1,275 per year
- 501+ employees @ \$2,775 per year
- Apartments @ \$1 per unit.

FOUNDERS CIRCLE

I want to join the FRI Community Connection Founder's Circle by making a multi-year pledge.

This includes a complimentary membership at the appropriate level.

Level of Support: (check one)

- \$1,000 per year for 3 years (\$3000 total)
- \$2,500 per year for 3 years (\$7500 total)
- \$5,000 per year for 3 years (\$15,000 total)
- \$7,500 per year for 3 years (\$22,500 total)
- \$10,000 per year for 3 years (\$30,000 total)

Benefits:

- Donor Plaque, and quarterly recognition in the FRI eblast
- *All the above plus* semi-annual recognition in the FRIdays Magazine (mailed to 16,000 households)
- *All the above plus* your logo on the FRI Website, 15% discount on FRIdays News Magazine advertising
- *All the above plus* recognition at FRI business & community meetings
- *All the above plus* a permanent banner on the FRI website and recognition at ALL special events

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Edna Foster: Victim's Outreach Coordinator
Maria Valenzuela: Bookkeeper

To place an ad in FRIdays News Magazine,
call 214.324.5116 or e-mail Maria
Valenzuela at
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By becoming a Community Connection member,
you not only help Far East Dallas, you get perks!
For a list of membership benefits, go to our web
site at Fergusonroad.org.

Front Cover (left to right) Library Manager
Sandra King, City Councilmember Carolyn R.
Davis, and FRI President Vikki J. Martin

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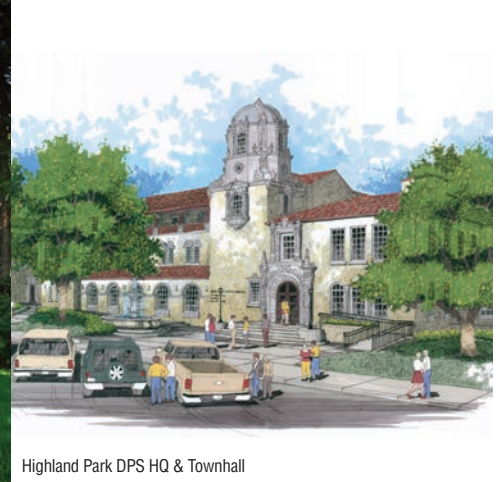
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Southlake DPS

Bayles Elementary School Celebrates 50 Years At Current Location

By Barbara Mairs, Bayles teacher

Bayles School is an asset to the White Rock Hills community, and is one of our most historic entities.



Around 1856 in the eastern part of Dallas County, W.C. Hunnicutt founded the first school in the settlement of Dallas. Among the first students that attended were the Ferguson, Hunnicutt, Rupard, and Motley families. The school continued at its original location until 1870, when a team of mules pulled it to the west side of Lotti Road. The school was then renamed after Edwin Bayles, who managed the old Ferguson Dairy.

In 1890, the school was moved again by mules to Jim Miller Road near I-30 and Samuell Boulevard.

The school was in danger of being abolished in 1928, but a teacher, Mrs. D.C. Motley, garnered enough students to keep it going. In 1932, a second room was added.

This 2-room school was replaced in 1941 during the Works Progress Administration (WPA) with a \$37,000 building at 2360 Laughlin (now the home of the Creative Arts Center).



Bayles' Class of 1904-05

The current Bayles School opened in September 1961. In 2005, through the advocacy of the school and Claremont communities, a new wing was added to accommodate overcrowding and to add a library. This allowed the district to remove most of our portable buildings.

Bayles held an open house on April 28 to celebrate their 50 years at the 2444 Telegraph Avenue site. Students, teachers, and staff that were a part of Bayles Elementary School from 1961 to today attended to join the celebration.

I want to thank the students in my computer class that helped write the history of Bayles that we have on the website today. For additional information on the history of Bayles, go to <http://dare2shareatn.com/2010/bayles/history.html>

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FRI FOCUS ON DEVELOPMENT

Grifols Biomat USA collects plasma from donors to create life-saving medicines

By Becky Levine, Senior Manager, External Communications

For most of us who have an ache, pain or infection, swallowing a few pills can stave off the unpleasant symptoms and provide an adequate cure. But for people who have rare, inherited diseases such as hemophilia or an immune deficiency, traditional medicines aren't sufficient to treat their life-threatening symptoms.

Grifols is a global health care company that produces specialized medicines for people who have life-threatening conditions that require unique treatments derived from human plasma, the liquid portion of blood. Plasma is rich in essential proteins that are necessary for healthy physical and neurologic function. Many of the antibodies and the other vital proteins found in plasma are unique and irreplaceable, and they often provide the only effective treatment for patients with certain rare diseases. Grifols Biomat USA collects the source plasma that is ultimately used to produce these specialized medicines.

To meet the growing demand for these critical therapies, Grifols has built a network of 147 plasma collection centers in communities across the nation, similar to the center at 2580 Gus Thomason Road in Dallas. After the plasma is collected from donors, it undergoes rigorous testing and analysis before being sent to one of three manufacturing facilities, where the fragile proteins are extracted and purified for use in one of Grifols' plasma-derived medicines.

Because our mission is to improve the health and well being of people worldwide, Grifols puts safety first, and every one of our plasma donation centers follows strict quality, safety and compliance guidelines. All potential donors receive a

"We at Grifols are delighted to be part of the community and to support the endeavors that the FRI team puts forth."

Bob Booker, Corporate Vice President of Operations West

physical exam and several health screening assessments prior to being qualified to donate. Samples from each and every donation are thoroughly tested using FDA-approved protocols before the plasma is approved for use in manufacturing our life-saving therapies.

In keeping with our mission to improve lives, Grifols strives to create positive relationships with the communities in which our employees work and live. Our presence in Dallas is a privilege as well as a responsibility, and we are committed to serving as good neighbors and strong community partners. Grifols employs approximately 40 local residents and provides valuable job training in the allied health profession. In addition, the donor center contributes nearly \$3.4 million to the local Dallas economy through payroll and other business expenses.

Over the last several years, Grifols has proudly supported the Ferguson Road Initiative because the company understands the importance of continuously improving the local community. In addition, Grifols supports local patient groups such as the Immune Deficiency Foundation and the National Hemophilia Association through donor center fundraising events and disease awareness campaigns that highlight the importance of early diagnosis and proper treatment.

Grifols Biomat USA will continue to support the Ferguson Road Initiative while focusing on the collection of safe and high-quality plasma for the benefit of patients around the world. ■



Gina Madrid and Olivia Begay at Grifols Biomat attend the FRI Community Connection Breakfast at the Highland Park Cafeteria, November 2011

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Far East Dallas is Looking Good!

More than 150 friends and neighbors joined State Representative Eric Johnson, Walgreens #07783 (Lakeland and Ferguson), the Lone Star Credit Union and the Ferguson Road Initiative in a community-wide cleanup on March 31. Neighborhood organizations, schools, faith communities, and local businesses joined to help clean up Far East Dallas. ■



Volunteers from Golden Gate Missionary Baptist Church



Mallory Goodwin and Taryn Bailey help clean up their community



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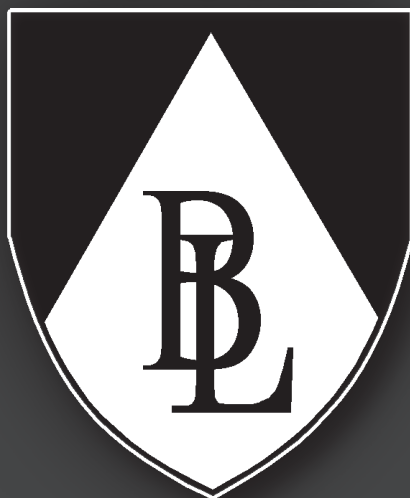


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Changing Lives Through FRI's Victims Outreach

by Edna Foster, Coordinator

Now in its third year, the FRI's Victims Outreach program is positively impacting far East Dallas residents through workshops, domestic violence groups, and educational lectures. Funded by the State of Texas, Victims Outreach identifies victims of abuse and violence and helps empower them to positively change their lives. There are many moving stories that demonstrate just how important the programs of Victims Outreach are for the community of the Ferguson Road Initiative and I'd like to share one.

Providing a Safety Net

One of the programs of Victims Outreach is the Safety Net Program. Its goal is to teach awareness to youth about abuse and violence. First launched at S.S. Conner Elementary School, the teachers and staff were eager to learn what a group like this could actually do for their students. Designed so that children could take what they learn back to their home and family members, the Safety Net Program began to exactly do that! After the first few sessions, several mothers came by to inquire about the



literature their children were bringing home. By educating children, I soon learned I was also able to capture the attention of their parents. As a result, I was able to offer several parents lifesaving information, and to refer them to The Family Place, an agency that addresses family violence and abuse.

Gabriella's Story

I'd like to share a personal story about Gabriella S. (not her real name), a child who attends the Safety Net Program. One day Gabrielle shared that she didn't realize that her family was "different" until she spent the night at another friend's house. She explained that it was customary for her family to argue and fight during dinner at her house. She said it was "normal" for her family to not eat together, and to also eat "wherever and whenever they wanted." She explained that she felt "funny" eating at her friend's house because they all sat around the table talking to one another while they ate and shared about their day. She said she didn't know what to say and that she just wanted to go home because she didn't like them looking at her or asking her questions.

Through the Safety Net Program Gabriella learned to explore her feelings and confusion about this awkward moment in her life. She was able to understand what a healthy family system looks like after encountering another family. Gabriella was eager to learn and she often talked openly about issues within her home, which was indicative of her rough family life. The Safety Net Program provided this child with insight that she will be able to use the rest of her life. ■

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"I think that it's important for people to be good stewards of where they live. As an area resident, my participation with the Ferguson Road Initiative is a start."



Demetria McCain, FRI
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from April 1, 2011 To March 21, 2012
See Founders Circle Members on page 3

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FRI Lending a Hand Through VITA

By Kerry Goodwin & Maria Valenzuela

This year marks the 6th year the Ferguson Road Initiative and IRS have partnered to provide free voluntary income tax assistance (VITA) to folks in Far East Dallas. We would like to share a few stories that demonstrate the impact FRI is making in our community.

Elderly Fraud Victim

An elderly man came to our VITA center after having gone to a fly-by-night tax preparer. The tax preparer left his wife off the form and mistakenly filed him as a single dad with a dependent child, head of household. She also "accidentally" doubled his income from \$8,500 to \$16,500! With these "mistakes" his expected return was a little over \$6,000. She charged him \$440 to prepare the return. Due to a typo she made, IRS had rejected the return. When this gentleman returned to the tax preparation service looking for the woman who filed his taxes, she was gone. He called IRS to report what happened and that's how he ended up in our office. We discovered that his refund was supposed to go to a bank in Santa Barbara. Since he did not know anyone there and his wife wasn't included on the return, he couldn't imagine why his income had doubled. After completing his return, correctly, his refund dropped by about \$3k. We turned the original tax preparer in for a fraudulent filing.

Distraught Family

Our next story involves a couple with 2 young daughters. In 2010 they placed their life savings of \$20,000 in the stock market. After 3 months they had lost \$500. They decided the stock market was not the place for them and pulled their money out of it. When they filed their taxes in 2010 (with an unreliable service) they did not think about this, and forgot to bring a form with them. As it turned out, the IRS thought that they had earned an additional \$19,500 (their original investment less their losses) from their claimed earnings, and the IRS said they owed in excess of \$4,000 for this "extra" income. They could not understand how they could lose \$500 AND owe the IRS so much money. They came to us to file their 2011 taxes, and for us to do a payment plan on the \$4000 they "owed." We did an amendment to their 2010 tax return, and they not only got their \$4000 forgiven, but they got an additional \$80 for their investment loss. They were elated and very relieved that it was not as bad as they initially thought. They had not been able to sleep since they got the letter from the IRS that they owed the money, and you could see their burden lessen as they realized they were in the clear with the IRS. It was very rewarding. They were so grateful to us, and they were smiling when they left.

These are but a few of the many personal stories our VITA volunteers recount on a weekly basis to us. As of early April, the FRI VITA center has conducted more than 700 tax returns and received more than \$1.75M in refunds. FRI continues to lend a hand to help our community financially.

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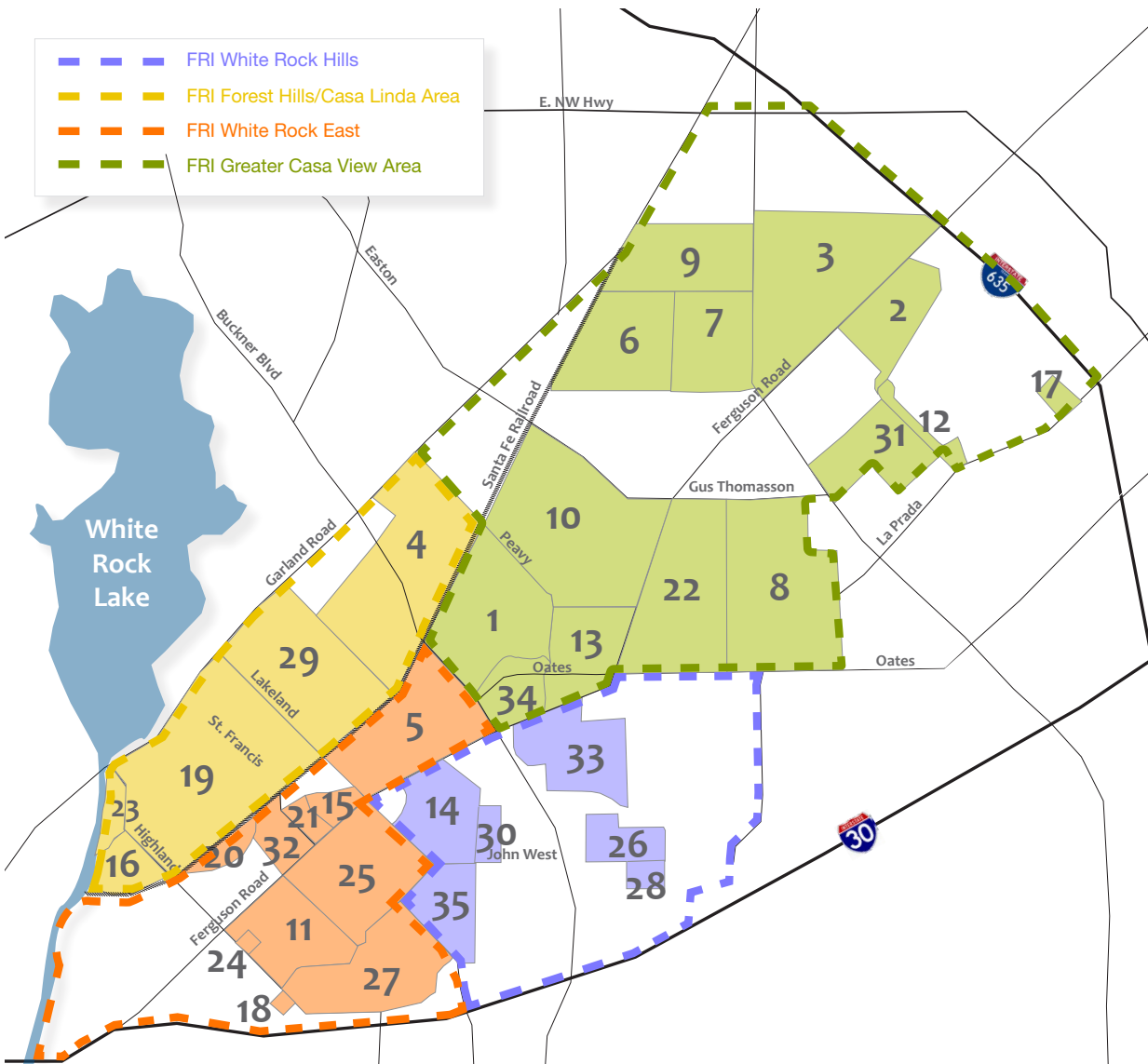
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