

Neighborhood Day 2001

IT IS NOT
HAPPY PEOPLE
WHO ARE
Thankful
IT IS THE
THANKFUL PEOPLE
WHO ARE
Happy



SLFD



First Baptist
Hispanic Mission





Painting and Repairs





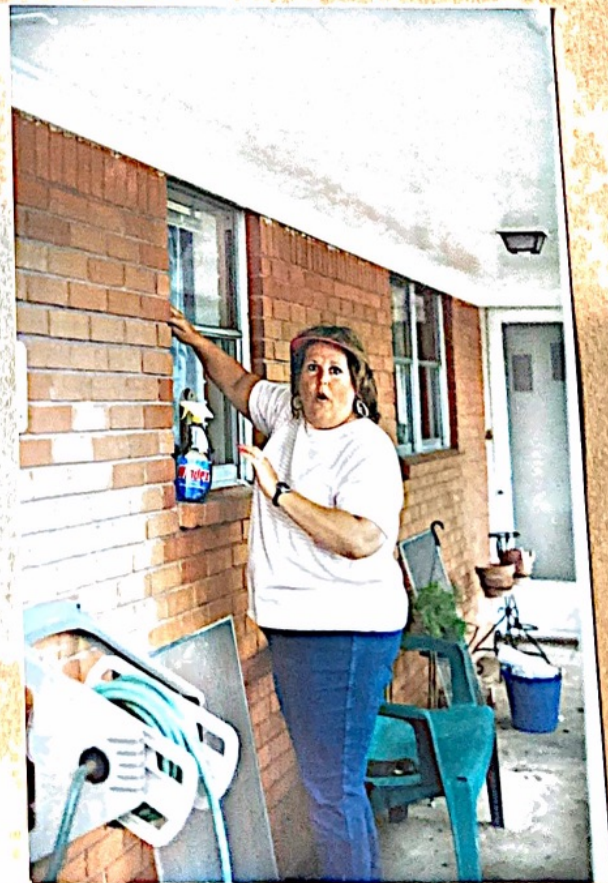








Housecleaning



Yard Work







LUNCH





Sixth Annual Neighborhood Day

'Hearts and Hammers'
assists senior citizens



Sugar Land Lion's Club serves Vasos lunch to volunteer Brenda Melton.

Almost 100 volunteers, most of whom were students, worked on senior citizens homes and First Baptist Hispanic Mission located in the first community of Sugar Land, known as "the Hill." Keep Sugar Land Beautiful, Friends of Old Sugar Land and Fort Bend CORPS worked in partnership for a second year to organize the sixth annual event.

Volunteers worked on eight senior citizens' homes with projects ranging from interior cleaning to completely painting a home. Also recognizing that one of the oldest churches in the area needed painting the group decided to assist First Baptist Hispanic Mission. Kempner PALS, Kempner AVID, First Baptist Youth, and Clements students began work early Saturday morning on all projects under



Crew working on First Baptist Hispanic Mission.



Kempner AVID students Kandace Lytle and Nicki Pena painting at senior citizen's home.



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the direction of crew leaders: Bud Little, Palm Builders; Roland Younger, Living Improvements; Tim Howard, Howard Remodeling; Warren Parker; Burke Sunday; Mary Westlake, Kempner PALS; and John St. John, Don Mikeska and Kyle Bush of First Baptist Church. Bush also spent two days pressure washing and preparing the church for Saturday's painting. In addition, he is also a manufacturer's representative and donated ladders, caulk guns, scrapers, caulk, tape from the following companies he represents: Werner Ladder Co., Hyde Mfg., Norton Co., Hero Industries, and Puddington Gatewood, Inc.

Sugar Land Fire Dept. Station House No. 1 spent all day in the area as well, completing safety checks on the homes and

Volunteers worked on eight senior citizens' homes with projects ranging from interior cleaning to completely painting a home.

installing smoke alarms. SLFD discovered gas leaks in one home and four leaks in the church. John Wu, Fire Chief, Glenn Turner, Asst. Fire Chief and Station 1 firemen: Jeff Krehmeier, Kirk Byrd, Jim Zak, Curtis Le Grotte and Tim Terrell visited with the seniors and inspected homes according to their needs. One of the seniors stated, "Oh, the firemen were the highlight of my day. They were so personable and eased my mind putting new smoke alarms in this old house."

Many local companies sponsored this year's event in addition to Fort Bend CORPS. Sherwin Williams graciously donated several gallons of paint and tools for work on First Baptist Hispanic Mission. When it was discovered that 10 window panes were broken at the site JC Glass immediately sent a truck out to replace all windows free of charge. Volunteers also cleaned out the children's playground area because the dirt contained lead paint chips. Soil Supermarket on Hwy. 90 donated several yards of playground cushion for the area. K2 Realty, Councilman Don (and wife, Merle) Smithers, Hill residents, Gordon and Judy Gallagher and Lucille Ligitino all generously gave cash donations. Vasos Bar-B-Q donated lunch for all volunteers which was


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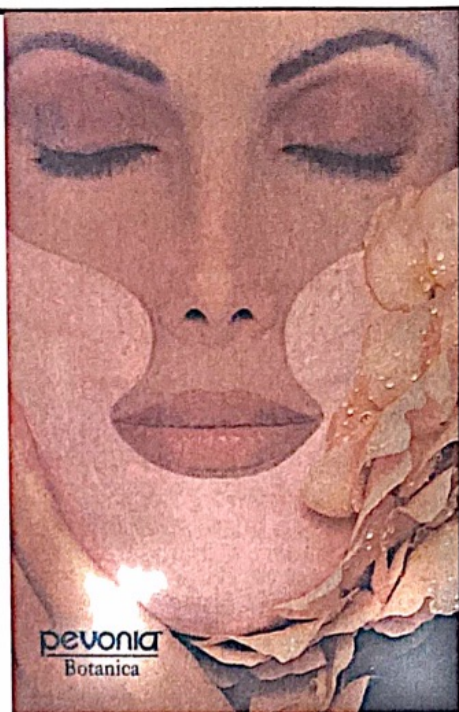
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Sugar Land Fire Station 1 crew with senior citizen.
Station No. 1 installed smoke alarms and did complete safety checks on the homes.

served by Sugar Land Lion's Club. Wal-Mart donated drinks and Frito Lay donated chips for the lunch. Corporate sponsors of the event were Nalco/Exxon, Lowes Home Improvement and ECO Resources.

"Each spring, Keep Sugar Land Beautiful (KSLB) celebrates the Great American Clean-up by partnering with local groups to hold three signature events, each targeted to our goals of litter prevention, beautification and responsible waste management," says KSLB Director, Melissa Hoffman. In the area of litter prevention, KSLB organized local volunteers for the annual Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off and Oyster Creek Clean-up. "It's a state-wide event where volunteers pick up trash along Texas roadways, parks and waterways," Hoffman explains.

"For beautification, we're involved in the Neighborhood Day Hearts and Hammers Restoration Project."

With more than half of the volunteers being students, how appropriate it was that April 21 was National Youth Service Day. According to a recent *Parade* magazine article, Steve Culbertson, president and CEO of Youth Service America, which organizes National Youth Service Day, believes that every young person, as early as 5, has the capacity to give back to someone else. "Service is the fundamental way of knowing how you fit into society," says Culbertson.

Kristin Lytle, founder of Friends of Old Sugar Land (which is celebrating its 10th year), assists in organizing year-round community service projects for Kempner AVID and PALS students. Lytle believes not only

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do the seniors citizens benefit from the high school students but even more the students learn so much from time spent with them. "Many students communicated to me at the end of the day that they enjoyed the work, but even more they loved talking with the homeowner. Mary Westlake, Kempner and FBISD District Teacher of the Year, has expressed interest in Kempner PALS possibly 'adopting' our seniors next year to build on these relationships," says Lytle.

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Fort Bend Community
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Fort Bend CORPS, Fort Bend Community Revitalization Projects efforts extend throughout Fort Bend County, and held Hearts and Hammers in other areas on Saturday as well. The CORPS manages three programs to deliver repairs: Hearts and Hammers-exterior restoration and painting; Roofs over Fort Bend-roof repair or replacement and Interior Repair Program-repairs to essential interior living systems. One of the homes in the Hill is currently qualifying through the Roofs over Fort Bend program for a new roof. The home, built in the early 1900s, still has the original tin roof which has now rusted beyond repair, to the extent of causing leaks in the home. Fort Bend CORPS is helping neighborhoods improve the quality of life one home at a time with Hearts and Hammers held twice a year in April and October.

For information in sponsoring or volunteering for Hearts and Hammers, call 281-313-CORPS.

Keep Sugar Land Beautiful is having its first annual membership drive to coincide with several spring beautification events. KSLB is a non-profit affiliate of Keep Texas Beautiful and Keep America Beautiful. To join KSLB, or volunteer for any of the programs, call Hoffman at 281-340-2064. ●

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