



## NOVEMBER ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING RECAP

Even though the weather outside was frightful the night of the VPNA Annual Meeting, the mezzanine at the Greenville Bar & Grill was delightful! Laughter and delicious aromas filled the air as neighbors chatted and noshed on mini burgers, deviled eggs and an assortment of meat and cheeses.

Adam Miller, father of a future Robert E. Lee student, gave an update on recent activities at Lee Elementary, as well as future plans for the grounds. Parents and members of the community are sponsoring the 'Lee Elementary Campaign for Excellence' to support three initiatives: 1) the Lee PTA, 2) Friends of Lee and 3) Project Refresh—see Adam's article in this newsletter to find out more.

Nomination Committee chair Alun Urquhart announced the slate of candidates put forth by the committee for the 2015 VPNA Board of Directors. There was also a nomination from the floor. The proposed slate along with the floor nomination was unanimously voted into office.

Please extend a warm welcome to the 2015 VPNA Board of Directors: President Selena Urquhart, Vice-President Michael Jones, Secretary Pam Thomas, Treasurer Wally Bettes, Members at Large: Anna Short, Beth Bentley, Gary Hicks, Lloyd Loving, Rob Irvin, Tim Clyde and Will Short.

A big Thank You goes out to the 2014 VPNA Board and Committee members for their time and diligence to make our neighborhood such a great place to live! We would also like to thank Greenville Bar & Grill owner Shawn Foley, Manager Brian McKinney and Executive chef Richard Sipovic for providing the meeting space, good food & drink and great service.



## LEE ELEMENTARY BECOMES BEST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN DALLAS

Want to be a part of next year's headline? Lee has tremendous academic programs coupled with being located in a great neighborhood. This past year, Lee introduced a new passionate principal, Ms. Bridget Ransom, who has an awe-inspiring vision for the school. The school currently boasts a two-way dual-language program, Talented and Gifted (TAG) curriculum, an award-winning organic garden and is currently in the process of applying for International Baccalaureate designation.

So what is missing? Improved community support. Lee's parents and other individuals from

**Bulk Trash**  
Week of the 2nd Monday  
**Don't Set Out Trash**  
**Before: Thursday, December 4th**  
**Pick Up Week December 8th to 12th**  
**Weekly Trash & Recycling Pick-up**  
Every Monday



the community are sponsoring the Lee Elementary Campaign for Excellence to support three initiatives: 1) the Lee PTA, 2) Friends of Lee, and 3) Project Refresh. The Lee PTA develops connections between parents, students and staff with flexible funding that could be used for teacher and student appreciation events, immediate school needs and field trips.

Friends of Lee is designated for school Academics, including International Baccalaureate fees, teacher training, classroom technology upgrades and implementing the science lab.

Project Refresh is designated to fund significant capital improvements to the grounds of the school, such as a new basketball court, soccer field, beautifications along Matilda, outdoor classrooms, sunshades for playground equipment and an expanded garden.

Support our local community elementary school by investing in the future of our neighborhood. To support the Lee PTA contact Staci Howie, a new kindergarten parent, at [staci-howie@gmail.com](mailto:staci-howie@gmail.com). To support the Friends of Lee or Project Refresh, go to [www.woodrow-](http://www.woodrow-)

[foundation.org/donate/](http://foundation.org/donate/) and select the applicable designation. For more information on Project Refresh including renderings please send an email to Adam Miller, parent of a three year old, at [projectrefreshrel@gmail.com](mailto:projectrefreshrel@gmail.com) or like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/projectrefreshrel](http://www.facebook.com/projectrefreshrel). All donations to the three initiatives are 100% tax-deductible as allowed by the IRS.

Let's make the headline a reality by investing in the future of our neighborhood kids this holiday giving season.



### ROBERT E. LEE ELEMENTARY NOTES

On November 11, Dallas School Board members, city councilmen Kingston and Medrano, parents, neighbors and supporters of Robert E. Lee Elementary met in front of the school at 8:30am in the brisk cool to hear about Lee's successes, meet its new principal, Bridget Ransom and learn of some of the progressive works in progress for the school. You can read more about this event on the following sites:

**UR LAWN CARE**  
Maintenance & Landscaping

Call Uwe Reisch – 214-886-9202



E-mail: [uwereisch@yahoo.com](mailto:uwereisch@yahoo.com)

**Castro's Tree Service** Insured & Bonded

Free Estimates  
Jeff Castro  
Cell#: (214) 725-1171  
E-mail: [jridefrec@aol.com](mailto:jridefrec@aol.com)

**Dallas Best Choice for Quality Tree Care**  
Specializing in: Tree Trimming, Shaping & Removal



*They are only this small once.  
Capture it forever.*

MiettePhotography.com  
214.864.5787



**Mstreets.com**

*"Visit my website to search homes for sale."*

**KEN LAMPTON**  
972-380-7937

**RE/MAX**  
ABOUT DALLAS

Dallas Morning News: <http://educationblog.dallasnews.com/>

Dallas Observer: [http://blogs.dallasobserver.com/unfairpark/2014/11/lee\\_elementary\\_dallas\\_ib\\_lakewood.php](http://blogs.dallasobserver.com/unfairpark/2014/11/lee_elementary_dallas_ib_lakewood.php)

Advocate: <http://lakewood.advocatemag.com/2014/11/14/robert-e-lee-elementary-reached-tipping-point/>

Dave Perry Miller Realtors: <http://www.daveperrymiller.com/blog/2014/11/robert-e-lee-neighbors-want-school-on-par-with-stonewall-and-lakewood/>



### VICKERY PLACE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Whether you are a veteran to Vickery Place or have just moved in here are some frequently asked questions and answers to help you out.

#### Who is responsible for fixing the sidewalk in front of my house?

The homeowner is responsible for maintaining the condition of the sidewalk in front of their house. Under rare circumstances the City will share the cost of repairing the sidewalk. However, this shared cost may be more expensive than hiring an independent contractor yourself.

#### Who is responsible for maintaining the alley behind my house?

The homeowner is responsible for maintaining the alley directly behind their house and making sure it is free of litter and debris.

#### How can I get the alley behind my house paved?

The City of Dallas requires that home owners share the costs of improving an unpaved alley. A petition has to be signed by 2/3rds of the residents whose houses share the alley. To start this process you can either call 311 or fill out the online form at <http://dallascityhall.com/>

[services/services.html](http://services/services.html). Be sure to look for the Service Request Entry - Paving - Unimproved (New Alley) - PWT

#### How can I get part of my block designated as NO PARKING?

By City of Dallas ordinance, "No Parking" signs are handled on a petition basis. In a residential area, the citizen must have a petition signed by 80% of affected citizens in the same block, on the same side of the street, with 51% being in favor of the change. There is a \$50 non-refundable application fee and a fee of \$25 per sign installed/removed. This petition can be found online at <http://dallascityhall.com/pdf/ResidentialParkingPetition.pdf>

#### Who can I contact regarding suspicious activities?

Always call 911 if something seems suspicious around our neighborhood. Having a patrol car drive by might just prevent a crime

#### Who can I contact regarding Dallas City code violations? Ex. Bulky trash out at an improper time, cars in the yard, too many garage sales, junk cars, etc...

Either call 311, or fill out the online form at <http://dallascityhall.com/services/services.html>



### HAPPY 30TH ANNIVERSARY TO OUR NEIGHBOR THE BLUE GOOSE!

**DESIGN - BUILD - REMODEL**





**Construction Company**

ChrisBlackConstruction.com 214-773-5566

## DECEMBER YARD OF THE MONTH

5419 Miller is December's Yard of the Month. Though the first hard frost has extinguished many of the neighborhood's annuals, the front porch here welcomes with lush pots of still-green grasses.

Brian and Sergio Orrell both lived in older parts of Dallas (Kessler Park and Hollywood Heights) and it was a natural that they would be attracted to the craftsman homes of Vickery Place. They have lived here since 2012 and live in their spacious home with Teddy and Ruby, golden doodles who share the same parents and birthdays, one year apart.

What do they love most about Vickery Place? They appreciate the convenience to everything and the restaurants in the area that only continue to improve with time.

Most challenging in their gardening pursuits has been finding the best spot for hydrangeas. They find themselves still working for that right amount of sun shade and water.

Building a pergola in the back is the next project with visions of kiwi vines entwining over it.

Congratulations Brian and Sergio. As with all Yard of the Month winners through Vickery Place Neighborhood Association, you will receive a \$50 gift certificate from our friends at North Haven Gardens.

VPNA Beautification Committee Debbie Simurda and Mark Kay Henley.



### KIWI VINES

While kiwi are generally thought of as products of New Zealand or California, they can grow in Texas if care is given in times of frost. The vines are just as exotic as the fruit they bear, a reddish brown with broad green leaves. Beware, they require a male and female plant for fruit bearing.

NORTH HAVEN *Gardens*



The finest selection of

## Poinsettias Fresh Trees & Greenery

Shop nature-inspired works by independent artists in our newly opened gallery



7700 Northaven Rd. (Just West of 75)  
Open Daily ☎ 214-363-5316  
NHG.com →



## 2014 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President - Selena Urquhart

Vice President - Beth Bentley

Secretary - Allan Cano

Treasurer - Michael Jones

### Members at Large:

Anna Short, Anton Skowronski, Janet Morris,  
Pam Thomas, Salim Nourallah, Will Short

The Vickery Place newsletter is published by  
Vickery Place Neighborhood Association.

Editor: [alun@vickeryplace.com](mailto:alun@vickeryplace.com)

For sponsorship rates and information email  
[info@vickeryplace.org](mailto:info@vickeryplace.org)