

MAY GENERAL MEETING

Trinity River Audubon Center Storm Water Management

Date: Thursday, May 14
 Time: 7:00 pm
 Place : Vickery Towers
 Main Dining Hall
 (Corner of Greenville & Belmont)

Join us for this informative evening and enjoy quesadillas provided by Quesa-D-Yas.

IT'S A NATURAL!

The **Trinity River Audubon Center** located just eight minutes from downtown Dallas on 120 acres, opened October 2008 and is part of the City of Dallas-Trinity River Corridor Project. It is your gateway to explore the amazing resources of the 6,000-acre Great Trinity Forest.



A representative from the Center will present at our May 14th General Meeting, telling us all about this exciting new facility. Visitors to the center can explore hands-on exhibits, nature trails, the Children's Discovery Garden, and a nature store with unique gifts. Programs offered at the center educate and entertain children, families, and adults.

The Trinity River Audubon Center is the first LEED-certified building constructed by the City of Dallas Park and Recreation Department. Its green features include a vegetated roof, rainwater collection system, energy efficient systems, and recycled materials.

LET'S TALK DIRTY!



Storm water does not get treated and cleaned before it flows into Dallas' lakes, creeks and the Trinity River. So, if water goes into a storm drain dirty, it stays that way.

Frances Ockels, an Environmental Coordinator on the City of Dallas' **Storm Water Management Outreach Team**, will educate us on what storm water is, how it can become polluted, how that pollution affects us, and how we can prevent storm water pollution with some simple changes in behavior. You can do your part to keep our storm drains clear and clean—recycle your motor oil after changes rather than pouring down the storm drain; bag up grass clippings or better yet put them in a compost bin, just to name a few.

There will be handouts, giveaways and a door prize. Enjoy fresh-made, gourmet quesadillas, courtesy of Quesa-D-Ya's, located at 2820 Greenville Ave. We will be gathering in the main dining hall at Vickery Towers. Hope to see you there!

Bulky Trash/Basura Abultado

Don't Set Out Trash Before:
 Thursday, May 7
 Pick Up Week:
 May 11 - 15

Volume 28, Issue 5
 May 2009

Recycling Pick-up

Thursday May 14
 Thursday, May 28



APRIL GENERAL MEETING RECAP



Councilmember
Pauline Medrano

The April 9 Candidate Forum was not only an informative evening, but it also provided a casual setting for residents to get to know the three candidates contesting for the District 2 City Council seat. After opening statements, moderator Bruce Thomas posed various questions to each candidate. Two of the main topics addressed by the candidates were the City owned convention hotel and what they felt was the most important issue facing Dallas.

Incumbent Pauline Medrano felt *Public Safety* was the most pressing issue for Dallas, encompassing fighting crime & safer neighborhoods. She voiced her support of the convention hotel, expressing that Dallas needs it to attract national conventions.

Billy MacLeod's thought the main issue facing Dallas was *Leadership*. He agrees with Mayor Leppert in support of the convention hotel, but thought the hotel will cost too much to build.



Bruce Thomas &
Billy MacLeod



Medrano, MacLeod &
Gwain Wooten

Gwain Wooton said the main issue facing Dallas was *Affordable Housing*. She does not support the convention hotel, felt we have too many hotels that are currently vacant; convention business is changing, may not be a need for the hotel.

Thank you candidates for participating in our forum, VP resident Bruce Thomas for facilitating this event, VT Program Director Jerri Lamrock for helping set up, and to all who attended the meeting. If you have not voted yet, Election Day is Saturday, May 9. A runoff, if needed, would be held June 13.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING IS THURSDAY JUNE 11

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AROUND THE NEIGHBOHOOD



HARRISON FREEDMAN TURNS TWO

Brother Jack looks on as Harrison makes a wish over his choo choo train birthday cake. Food Network *Ace of Cakes* has nothing on talented mom, Mickey, and Vickery Place neighbor, Jeanine Baisch, who baked and decorated the delightful cake. The three foot long cake was decorated in a third neighbor's kitchen and carried car by car down the sidewalk to the party site where relatives and neighborhood children celebrated an old fashioned back yard birthday party.



LUCK OF THE IRISH

Mary and Ryan Kinahan welcomed William James on March 17, 2009. The St. Patrick's Day arrival was fitting as both Mary and Ryan share an Irish heritage. The family is pictured on Easter Sunday after having bunch at the home of Vickery Place neighbors, Lan and Mickey Freedman.

ALSO CELEBRATING EASTER IN VICKERY PLACE



Shelia Huffman, co-editor of the Vickery Place Neighborhood News, and her family (table for 15 please) enjoyed brunch at Dallas' first "blackboard restaurant", Greenville Avenue icon *The Grape*. Pictured with Shelia is her cousin Sue Wagoner of Richardson.

Board member Debbie Sirmuda and husband Andy, head of VP crime watch committee, had Easter brunch at *Stephen Pyles*. Debbie said it was the first year that the restaurant has served the holiday brunch and that the food and service were excellent.



Peter Cottontail caught up with the Rob Peters family in Houston where they were visiting Grandma and Grandpa for Easter. Pictured are Grant and Charlie Peters in their Easter finery.



Richard and Candy Hearne and family attended Easter Service followed by an egg hunt and butterfly release at their church. Afterwards they joined friends in neighboring Hollywood where they enjoyed lunch and the neighborhood association's Easter Parade. Granddaughter Caroline Hume is all smiles filling her basket with colored eggs left by the bunny.

Board member Selena Urquhart and husband Alun enjoyed a traditional Easter Ham dinner with family in Sache, Texas. Three year old niece Cayla Porter wanted to be the Easter Bunny.



WE WELCOME YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

Coming events include Mother's Day, Father's Day and Graduation. Please send a photo of your special event or celebration so that it can be shared with Vickery Place. If you have a child graduating please send picture, name of school, extra curricular activities and future plans. Send photo, preferably a jpg, to info@vpna. If you do not have digital and email capability, call Shelia at 214-827-4568 to get the photo scanned and to relay the information.

SHOP LOCAL, BUY FRESH ~ by Debbie Simurda

You already know all the right reasons for buying local produce. Did you also know that May is a great time of year for the start of new crops including blackberries, melons (cantaloupes, honeydew, watermelon), cucumbers and plums (red & yellow) to name a few. And, it's becoming even easier to find local produce as several businesses, including garden centers and restaurants are hosting their own 'Farmer's Market'.

A few things you should remember to bring on your foraging adventure: Small bills and change, Bag(s) or tote, Cooler for perishables.

Dallas Farmers Market - www.dallasfarmersmarket.org

Shed 1: Features local farmers that compliment the produce dealers

Shed 2: Will soon feature-eateries, specialty foods, and food related products

Shed 2 will provide an alternative to the busy supermarkets around town; not only will you be able to shop for specialty products but sample them as well. The unique difference for Shed 2 is that it is fresh, local and easy to purchase.

First Sunday Farmers Market at North Haven Gardens - www.nhg.com

Organic produce, mostly greens and onions, from Garden Harvests and Texas Ranch and Dreams; dog treats from Ol' Maggie Bakery; and peppered jellies from Kap's Pepper Co. Dominion Farms, P.O.P. Acres, JZJ Natural Beef and JuHa Ranch will be on hand to take orders for pastured meats. JuHa will also have eggs. 1st Sundays of the month from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Farmers Market at Mockingbird Station - www.mockingbirdstation.com

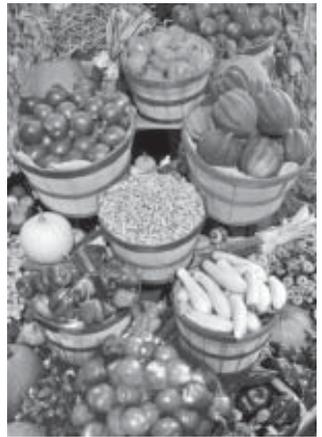
Come and sample fresh produce from a consortium of local growers, organic farmers and community gardens from around the Metroplex, and learn eco-friendly tips you can apply at home. Lots of good locally grown green stuff—not to mention honey, fruit, and urban chicken. Every Thursday from 5 to 8pm throughout May.

MOTHER'S DAY IN VICKERY PLACE - Celebrate Mother's Day at a neighborhood restaurant.

Fish City Grill, 2323 North Henderson, Phone 214-826-3474. Dan Keil's and his team will be giving flowers to each mother. Check out their drink specials and chalkboard specials for the day.

Cuba Libre, 2822 North Henderson, Phone 214-827-2820. Offers their Brunch Menu along with full lunch menu. Advance Reservations available at Cuba Libre.

The Porch, 2912 North Henderson, Phone 214-828-2916. Full lunch menu along with a Special Menu Items available on Mother's Day. The Porch normally does not take advance reservations, but special arrangements can be made for groups with 6 or more guests seating at 11:30am or earlier. Contact ndickey@consilientrestaurants.com M-F 8:30am-5:30pm



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BLACKBERRY FRENCH TOAST

Blackberries! Plentiful and in-season some of our local markets and grocery stores are practically giving them away. Try a Texas twist on French toast and take advantage of the delicious berry at the same time. Also, a great idea for Mother's Day *Breakfast in Bed*. A cup of hot coffee, crisp bacon and you have a breakfast fit for a queen.

4 slices Texas toast
5 eggs
1 cup milk
3/4 cup sugar or Splenda sugar substitute, divided
2 teaspoons vanilla
8 ounces cream cheese, softened
1/2 pint fresh blackberries
1/4 cup blackberry jam



Preheat oven to 300. Place bread in oven until crusty and kind of hard. Remove bread from oven. Raise oven temperature to 375.

In medium or large bowl, beat eggs with milk, 1/4c sugar (or Splenda), and 1 tsp vanilla. Tear each slice of bread into about 5 or 6 pieces and stir into egg mixture. Let sit.

In small bowl, combine cream cheese and 1/2 c sugar (or Splenda) and 1 tsp vanilla. Set aside.

In another bowl, combine fresh blackberries and blackberry jam.

Spray bottom of a loaf pan with non-stick cooking spray. Spoon half of bread/egg mixture into bottom of pan. Put blackberry mixture on top of bread mixture in pan, by spoonfuls. Do the same with the cream cheese mixture. Spoon remaining bread/egg mixture over berries and cream cheese.

Bake at 375 for 35-40 minutes, until fluffy and golden brown. Serve with powdered sugar and syrup, if desired.

SWISS AVENUE MOTHER'S DAY HOME TOUR & ART FAIR



May 9th: 10a-6p with the parade at 12noon

May 10th: Noon-6p with a Mother's Day Brunch from 11a-2p

Purchase tickets at any area Whole Food's Market, Needless Necessities on Henderson or Talulah Belle in Lakewood, \$15 in advance, or \$20 weekend of tour. More info: www.sahd.org.

Visit Dallas's first designated Historic District and discover some of the finest examples of early 20th century architecture. Seven homes will be featured on this year's home tour: 6318 Bryan Parkway, 5316 Live Oak, 4918 Swiss Avenue, 5002 Swiss Avenue, 5032 Swiss Avenue, 5907 Swiss Avenue, 6220 Worth Street.

Enjoy live music and wonderful food from Penne Pomodoro all weekend long in Savage Park. Sit under the trees and have a glass of wine, iced tea or even a cup of gelato from Paciugo! Mother's Day Champagne Brunch from 11a-2p on Sunday—Penne Pomodoro will be serving a delicious meal with an Italian twist including mimosas and bellinis. The brunch is \$20 per person and you can reserve your spot by calling 214-748-5566 ext. 20 or you can e-mail lombardisphx@aol.com.

Looking for that perfect Mother's Day gift? More than 20 local artists will be showcasing their photography, jewelry, textiles, ceramics, water colors, stone carvings and more in the Art Fair across the street from Savage Park.

Have a Happy Mother's Day!

WOODROW WILSON 80TH ANNIVERSARY

FORMER VP RESIDENT INDUCTED INTO WOODROW HALL OF FAME



Edwin Richard Bentley was born October 3, 1922, in McAllen, Texas. His family moved to Vickery Place when Ed was about a year old. He grew up in the house at 5551 Vickery, where his son Rick, daughter-in-law Beth and grandson Travis reside today. He attended Robert E. Lee Elementary the year it was built, followed by J. L. Long Junior High and Woodrow Wilson High School, graduating in 1940. He then went to the University of Florida and later graduated from the SMU School of Banking.



Bettie Ashby also attended J. L. Long Junior High and Woodrow Wilson High School. Even though she and Ed attended the same schools at about the same time, it wasn't until they were both in the working world that their paths would cross again and they began dating. Some of their favorite spots to frequent while dating were Kirby's Pig Stand (prelude to Kirby's Steak House) and Sammy's, both on Greenville Avenue.

Like so many men of his generation, Ed served his country during WW II. He joined the U.S. Army Air Corp. While stationed in Sacramento, California, Ed asked Bettie to come out for a visit. During that visit they decided to get married and took their vows on August 14, 1943.

In 1944, while stationed in Italy, the B-17 on which he was navigator went down over Yugoslavia. He was a POW (prisoner of war) for about a year, being moved from one concentration camp to another. A few days before the formal surrender of Germany, Ed was rescued by his father, Colonel Edwin Ray Bentley. During that time, Bettie was carrying their first child. The stress of being pregnant, and not knowing where her husband was or whether he was still alive, was overwhelming. She decided to stay with relatives in Florida for the duration of her pregnancy and on November 9, 1944, she delivered a healthy baby boy at Drew Army Air Base in Tampa. At seven weeks old, baby Richard Bentley was decorated with a medal of honor on his father's behalf. It was quite a homecoming for Ed!

After the war, Ed and Bettie returned to their beloved East Dallas where they raised three children, Richard, Barbara and Debbie. Ed and Bettie were very active within the community throughout the years. Bettie passed away on May 4, 1993. She and Ed would have been married 50 years the following August.

On Saturday April 25, 2009, Woodrow Wilson High School celebrated its 80th Anniversary of the school's opening. At this time, Ed Bentley was inducted into Woodrow's 'Hall of Fame'. He celebrated this momentous occasion with his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren!

OTHER 2009 INDUCTEES INTO THE WOODROW HALL OF FAME INCLUDE:

Elizabeth Cupples Blessing, 1936—First woman to campaign for mayor of Dallas; second woman elected to Dallas City Council. (Her husband's family operated the Blessing Mill & Lumber Company at 5011 Miller from 1923 - 1946. The family lived at 5214 Goodwin Avenue.)

Neil "Skip" Fletcher, 1953—At 7-years-old he served as "official taster" in the family kitchen as father Neil and Uncle Carl developed the recipe for their world-famous Corny Dog at the State Fair of Texas. Today he and brother Bill keep the dogs coming. (The Dallas City Directory lists Neil and Minnie Fletcher living on 5207 Vickery Blvd. in the 1940's and at 5501 Goodwin Ave. in the 1950's.)

Steve Miller, 1961—The Steve Miller Band's Greatest Hits 1974-1978 has sold over 13 million copies. Long-popular singer and guitarist and his band continue to perform at sold-out concerts.

Mariano Martinez, 1963—In 1971, the young restaurateur modified a soft-serve ice cream machine into the first frozen margarita machine, which is now displayed in the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History.

TIME TO SIT A SPELL...

Porch sitting - a favorite summer pastime. Here in Vickery Place we have some of the best porches around for enjoying this great American tradition. Porch sitting connects us with our neighborhood and community says *Southern Living Magazine*. The magazine also gives tips and ideas on how to make the most of your outdoor living space.

Decorate the porch as you would a living room. Choose weather resistant fabric and place colorful cushions and soft pillows on furniture and swings. Sit ferns, flowers and potted plants all around. Wind chimes, colorful pots and garden art add to the atmosphere. Outdoor living has become so popular that it is easier than ever to find element friendly accessories.



If you are building or renovating, remember the minimum depth of a front porch should be 6 feet to accommodate people and furniture comfortably. Eight feet is better and 10 feet is ideal.

Use your porch for relaxing with a good book or for entertaining family and friends. Not everyone is fortunate enough to have a big front porch, so take advantage of yours.

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FEBRUARY CRIME STATS:

CRIME	DATE	ADDRESS
BURGLARY	02/07/09	26XX MADERA
BURGLARY	02/07/09	54XX RICHARD
BURGLARY	02/10/09	54XX WILLIS
BURGLARY	02/12/09	54XX WILLIS
BURGLARY	02/12/09	26XX HENDERSON
BURGLARY	02/13/09	26XX HENDERSON
BURGLARY	02/16/09	55XX RICHARD
THEFT	02/05/09	28XX HENDERSON
THEFT	02/17/09	24XX HOMER
THEFT	02/18/09	51XX GOODWIN
THEFT	02/19/09	54XX GOODWIN
THEFT	02/21/09	53XX RICHARD
THEFT	02/24/09	52XX MILLER
AUTO THEFT	02/17/09	51XX WILLIS
AUTO THEFT	02/27/09	51XX MILLER
VANDAL	02/07/09	56XX GOODWIN
VANDAL	02/20/09	52XX GOODWIN
OTHER ASLT	02/20/09	26XX HENDERSON
OTHER ASLT*	02/21/09	56XX VICKERY
OTHER	02/02/09	51XX RICHARD

MARCH CRIME STATS:

CRIME	DATE	ADDRESS
BURGLARY	03/12/09	51XX WILLIS
BURGLARY	03/22/09	54XX WILLIS
BURGLARY	03/26/09	56XX GOODWIN
THEFT	03/12/09	52XX RICHARD
THEFT	03/12/09	51XX RICHARD
THEFT	03/18/09	52XX BONITA
THEFT	03/18/09	55XX BELMONT
THEFT	03/20/09	54XX MILLER
THEFT	03/21/09	51XX RICHARD
THEFT	03/22/09	56XX GOODWIN
THEFT	03/23/09	56XX GOODWIN
THEFT	03/23/09	53XX VICKERY
THEFT	03/27/09	54XX BONITA
THEFT	03/27/09	54XX BONITA
THEFT	03/27/09	55XX BONITA
THEFT	03/27/09	55XX VICKERY
THEFT	03/27/09	51XX WILLIS
AUTO THEFT	02/28/09	53XX VICKERY
AUTO THEFT*	03/06/09	53XX MILLER
OTHER ASLT	03/28/09	52XX WILLIS
OTHER	03/08/09	27XX HOMER
OTHER*	03/26/09	53XX MANETT
OTHER	03/29/09	55XX WILLIS

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY--CALL 911!

WE'LL LEAVE THE LIGHT ON FOR YOU!



We recently received this email and thought it was as a good reminder:

I have lived in Vickery Place since 1983, and have seen many changes for both good and ill. One of the good things that used to be much better is our neighborhood's appearance at night. Many years ago, a young couple walking by stopped to chat one night when I was moving my lawn sprinkler. They were looking for a home to buy in our neighborhood, and remarked that the reason they were interested in Vickery Place was because of the friendly people, the general charm of our dear old houses, and specifically, how welcoming it seemed at night. They had dubbed our neighborhood "the porch light district."

Leaving the porch light on at night gives your home a friendly and safe appearance. Criminals shy away from breaking into a home where they can be seen by neighbors. Let's remember to leave our porch lights on at night and maintain our neighborhood hospitality and safety!

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MAY YARD OF THE MONTH

5433 Goodwin

David Pucek and Gregory Farnsworth worked with builder Randall Edminston to gut, restore and expand their 1926 bungalow four years ago saving it from its presumed tear down state. Part of their

restoration process was preserving the legacy retaining wall and creating new landscaping while saving the old trees. In their self-designed yard they chose neutral plants like the Indian Hawthorns, transplanted palms from their previous home in North Dallas. The new landscaping left space for colorful impatiens and a new tree courtesy of the Vickery Place tree planting program. David and Gregory added lighting to the trees for dramatic evening effect as well. Their renovated home and front yard actually have some celebrity in that they were used several years ago to film a full length commercial for a Hispanic mineral

water. Both David and Gregory expressed that they “love our neighborhood and neighbors” and we love them helping make it beautiful. They will receive a \$25 gift card courtesy of North Haven Gardens as thanks.

NORTH HAVEN
Gardens

I'VE GOT YOUR NUMBER – OR DO I?

A Census Bureau worker who recently canvassed Vickery Place addresses in preparation for the 2010 Census reported that a large number of homes in our neighborhood lack readily-visible house numbers, per:

- Some have numbers on the curb or on the steps at the sidewalk, but no numbers on the house itself.
- Some have numbers that are difficult to see because they do not contrast with their background, such as brass numbers on light-colored brick or rust-brown numbers over dark brown paint.
- Some have vegetation that covers the house numbers.
- Some have house numbers that are not visible after dark.
- Some have no house numbers at all.

There is a city ordinance requiring address numbers on structures, and it certainly makes it easier for FedEx, pizza deliverers, and friends to find your home if you have a visible, readable house number. Take an impartial look at your home from the street and see if your home falls into any of the categories listed above. All of the problems listed are easy to rectify.

~ by Gary Lawler



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