



RESUMING NEIGHBORHOOD EVENTS We Need Your Input!

As Texas continues to open up from the COVID lock down, the Board is cautiously optimistic about resuming some of our fun Community Events! National Night Out has always been a big night, bringing out neighbors of all ages. If you have not been before, it is a block party held on Glencoe, between Miller and Willis. Neighbors gather together to listen to live music, enjoy great food, games, vendors, a raffle, adult beverages and just generally spend an evening with old and new friends! The Board is already working on plans for this year's event which will be held on October 5th. Stay Tuned for more details!

The next big event that our neighborhood is known for is the Annual Wine Walk. Planning had just begun in 2020 when we were shut down by COVID. This event typically features three homes and roughly 100 attendees. The event has traditionally been held in the Spring, generally in May. However, we are a tad late to try to do that in 2021.

It has been suggested that maybe we should plan one for the Fall, after National Night Out. To that end, we have set up a survey asking about community interest in holding a Wine Walk in the Fall, specifically on the first Saturday of November, or should we wait until the Spring of 2022?

The Board and Wine Walk Committee want your input on this fun event! Please go to this quick survey at the link below and give your input!
<https://bit.ly/3fCJ0Ne>



GENEVA HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY UPDATE

End of School Year - Due to the learning lag during the pandemic, school will be in session longer than usual—last day of classes for Dallas ISD students is Friday June 18, 2021. Please keep this in mind as you drive through school zones.

On May 18, Gov. Greg Abbott announced that public schools and district facilities cannot require masks starting June 5. Until that time, Dallas ISD will continue requiring masks be worn at schools and in district facilities. After June 5, everyone is highly encouraged to continue wearing masks inside schools, on buses, and all district facilities, as an added measure of safety for all. Dallas ISD remains committed to continue following social distancing and sanitation protocols and will continue studying best practices in the coming weeks.

Upcoming Fall Semester - In last year's general election, voters approved a \$3.5 million bond that calls for the demolition and replacement of 13 DISD schools, including our local elementary school, Geneva Heights. The timeline for demolition, logistics for placement of students/staff during construction, and design of the new facility are

**Bulk Trash Pickup is the
Week of the 2nd Monday**

Don't Set Out Trash Before: Thurs, June 10th
Pick Up Week June, 14th-18th
Weekly Trash & Recycling Pick-up 
Every Monday

Next VPNA Meeting

Still to be decided

Check website, Facebook or the digital newsletter
for the latest information

still to be determined. Many have expressed excitement over getting a new state of the art school. Yet many don't want to lose a community school. Historic schools are landmarks that contribute to a sense of place in the neighborhood. Preservation Dallas recommends renovating the core structure and adding new spaces instead of tearing entire buildings down (such as the new addition/renovation of the Solar Prep for Girls School on Henderson Ave). Dustin Marshall, the trustee for District 2, which includes Geneva Heights has expressed publicly his support for maintaining the historic parts of the school building.

In May, Principal Ruiz met with DISD officials and school principals of the other schools that are on the 2020 bond for new structures/reconstructed facilities. At that time, a timeline of the design process was discussed and community meetings could start in fall 2021. We will keep parents/community updated as we learn more.



SUMMER VACATION Keep Your Home Safe

With the school year coming to a close and the pandemic waning, many families are planning a summer get away. As you chart your trip, consider your home's safety before you go. Burglars target homes that look empty because it makes the process easier for them. With that in mind, it's important to make it look like your home is occupied while you're away.

Hold your mail, newspaper and package deliveries. A pile of unopened mail, unread newspapers, or packages left on the front porch announces to a would-be burglar that your home is empty and ready for intruders. Or have a neighbor pick these things up for you until you return home.

Make it look like someone's home. You can set timers for your lights, television, and other electronics to turn on and off throughout the day. You want your lights to look natural, as if someone's home. Avoid leaving your lights on the entire time you are gone. This will not only increase your electric bill, but it's also suspicious, since most people don't leave lights on all the time when they're home. If you're going to be out of town for a week or more, hire someone to mow your lawn and trim your hedges, so it looks like someone's around and doing the yard work. Ask a neighbor to park a car in front of your house or in your driveway to make it look like someone's home.

Have Neighbors to Keep an Eye Out. Tell your neighbors how long you'll be gone and ask them to keep an eye out for any suspicious activity at your house. Give them your contact numbers and where you will be, in case of an emergency. Have them call 911 if there is any suspicious activity.

Avoid Social Media. While it may be tempting to share photos on Facebook or tweet about your exciting travels, consider holding off on vacation-related posts. Those you are connected to online are typically your friends, but you never know when your information will get into the wrong hands. A friend of a friend may see your updated and know that your home is vulnerable. Consider waiting to post about your adventures until you get back.

Nix the Spare Key. If your home is being targeted, the first thing a criminal will look for is a spare key. He will look in the standard places: a conspicuous plastic rock, under the mat, or above the door. If you're going on vacation, think about removing the spare key all together until you are home, or leave a key with a neighbor.

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JUNE 2021 YARD OF THE MONTH

Evan Brody chose Vickery Place for his home as he loved the neighborhood's walkability and nice yards. He purchased 5223 Willis Avenue in 2008 and his wife, Aggie followed soon after. They have since grown their family to include their precious daughter Emilia along with their sweet old Great Dane, Maya.

Their 1923 original home went through an extensive renovation in 2016 to add more space and an upstairs. As part of the updates, they completed a full yard renovation, adding zoysia grass, sturdy metal edging and a blend of succulents and other perennials to the lone crepe myrtle on the west side of the front lawn. Aggie gathered more great ideas that she saw around the neighborhood and mapping it all out in Excel before visiting local garden stores in the area for supplies. Her favorites are North Haven Gardens, Ruibal's Dallas Farmer's Market, and Home Depot.

The west side of the front yard is more sun-filled side and is currently abloom with loads of colorful flowers, daisies, dramatic yuccas, and gorgeous Whale's Tongue Agave. The Brody's planted a 'Chinese Snowball' on the east side of the front yard for privacy and shade over their home office window and filled in underneath with ferns, coral bells and a beautiful hosta.



Their picturesque back yard is home to a massive pecan tree that provides just the right amount of shade for a pathway lined by hostas and a Japanese maple that greets you as you enter through the back gate. Aggie and Evan enjoy growing their own vegetables in their back yard too, particularly those that might be harder to find at the grocery store; veggies like okra (the flowers are edible too), shishito peppers, artichokes, and garlic chives to name a few. Multiple raised garden beds are situated in front of heavily pruned Vitex trees planted following the initial garden renovation. Pecan shell mulch in the beds really looks great against their luscious zoysia grass. Along their western sun-facing fence line, the Brody's installed a large trellis and grow the most delicious blackberries (we tasted them!). A Desert Willow tree also enjoys the full-sun placement and adds a unique texture to the space.

Some Great Tips From the Brodys:

- When selecting plants and placement, be sure to read and pay attention to hardiness codes, sun requirements, and expected size of the mature plant to avoid overcrowding in a couple years.
- Check the clearance section of your garden center. You never know what might be available for less that you can nurture into a beautiful plant.
- Select specific flowers that bloom at different times to enjoy a full season of color.
- Pecan shell mulch is a beautiful choice that doesn't float away in the rain. Buy it by the yard (vs by the bag) to save money on total cost.
- The Brody's blackberry vines grow along metal panels designed for livestock that they mounted directly to the wood fence slats.
- Look around you and keep your eyes open for great design and plant ideas that you can use in your own yard. Aggie was inspired to select a beautiful Desert Willow tree by the nearby Trader Joe's landscaping.

We want to congratulate the Brody family on their Vickery Place Yard of The Month win for June 2021. We also want to thank Northaven Gardens for their sponsorship and the \$50 gift card award that will be awarded to Evan and Aggie.



ADVERTISE IN THE NEWSLETTER!

Have you started a new business, or been in business forever? Is it something you think your neighbors should know about? Do you want to help support VPNA and the newsletter? Why not advertise in the VPNA Newsletter? Advertisements can range in size from business card to half page ads and in frequency from 1-10 insertions per year. Contact Stephanie Irvin at stephanie.vpnewsletter@gmail.com, or text her at 469.247.3632.

A GATSBY GARDEN SOIRÉE AT THE ARBORETUM

The Dallas Arboretum's fourth annual international culinary adventure, June 10, 7pm-9pm. This year's theme, A Gatsby Garden Soirée, will feature a socially distanced, garden-wide experience with music, wine, craft beer and food stations across their beautiful, floral-filled property with each location themed around the Roaring 20s and The Great Gatsby. A perfect date night or a great evening out with your friends! For tickets and to find out about other events/summer camps/classes at the Arboretum, go to www.dallasarboretum.com.

SHOP LOCAL AT LAKEWOOD VILLAGE FARMERS MARKET

Every Sunday in June from 9am to 1pm, you can shop local at the farmers market in Lakewood Village! Local vendors come from a 150 mile radius of Dallas--no distributors, no resellers, just all local small businesses. Produce, farm fresh eggs, grass fed beef, local goat cheese, honey, hand made soaps, crafts and so much more. Corner of Mockingbird and Abrams, next to TCBY. Support Local!

FRIDA AT DALLAS MUSEUM OF ART

Frida Kahlo: Five Works offers a rare chance to explore a selection of works by acclaimed Mexican painter Frida Kahlo. Since her death in 1954, Kahlo's deeply emotional and vibrant paintings have garnered ever-increasing attention, transforming the celebrated artist into a global cultural phenomenon. This installation features four paintings and a drawing on loan from a private collection, each acting as a vehicle for understanding larger aspects of Kahlo's artistic practice. On display till June 20, 2021 | Level 4, admission is FREE. For info on other exhibits/workshops/children's events, go to www.dallas-museumofart.com.

BE COOL AT TIETZE PARK AQUATIC CENTER!

Tietze Park Neighborhood Aquatic Center will open for weekend operation on June 5-6 and June 12-13. They will open for daily operation June 19 through August 15. The Aquatic Center will remain open on weekends only depending on seasonal staff availability through Labor Day. Several Covid-19 precautions will be in place, including limited capacity, temperature checks, social distancing while waiting in line, and mask requirements when not in the water. <http://dallasaquatics.org/196/Neighborhood-Aquatic-Centers>

Check out the new VICKERYPLACE.COM where you can buy T-Shirts (\$20) and Plaques (\$130 - includes mounting kit) or to donate to the Neighborhood Association!

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