



# Vickery Place Neighborhood NEWS

GREENVILLE-BELMONT-HENDERSON-CENTRAL-GOODWIN

P.O. BOX 720192 DALLAS, TEXAS 75372 VOICEMAIL: (214) 967-5134 WWW.VPNA.ORG



## SEPTEMBER MEETING

**GET INVOLVED** - If you're interested in getting more involved in our neighborhood association, serving on the 2005 Vickery Place board or being on the 2004 nominating committee, come to the September meeting and introduce yourself! (*More info on pg 3.*)

**Date:** Thursday, Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 7:00-9:00 PM

**Place:** Vickery Towers - at the corner of Belmont and Greenville

made a tradition of observing the date, first Tuesday in August, with a neighborhood street fest residents look forward to year after year.

Music by the popular Beatles cover band '**Hard Nights Day**' helped kick off the festivities. Adults relaxed with a cold drink or beer, while kids enjoyed sno-cones, a bouncy house, basketball toss, face painting and balloon animals. Our hungry guests munched on pizza, hotdogs and hamburgers. Winners of raffle prizes were announced all evening and a silent auction had folks outbidding each another in an attempt to go home with terrific items donated by neighborhood businesses.



VPNA President, Leslie Farrell, VP Eric LeBlanc & Police Chief, David Kunkle

## NATIONAL NIGHT OUT - BIG PARTY, BIG SUCCESS!

~ Jennifer Bryarly

On the evening of August, 3<sup>rd</sup>, an estimated 300 Vickery Place residents, friends, pets and city leaders gathered at the corner of Worcola and Vickery Blvd. for the annual National Night Out Against Crime block party.

For over 20 years, National Night Out Against Crime has encouraged neighborhoods to get together and "take back the night."

Vickery Place has



It is estimated over 300 people turned out for the Vickery Place National Night Out block party.

**Highland Park Animal Clinic** gave away free stuffed animals, pet toys, identification tags and lots of helpful information. Even **Police Chief, David Kunkle**, dropped by for a visit, as well as the mounted police patrol and other city leaders. (*More party pics on page 4.*)

The party proved to be a HUGE success thanks to the VPNA residents who volunteered and our friendly neighborhood businesses that sponsored the festivities. (*See page 2 for a complete list.*) And kudos to the **2004 Vickery Place board** for once again arranging an enjoyable event!

**Bulky Trash/Basura Abultado**

**Don't Set Out Trash Before:**  
Thursday, September 9th

**Pick Up Week:**  
Sept. 13th - 17th



Volume 23, Issue 9  
September 2004

(Crime stats will be posted next month.)

**Gift Certificates**

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- Highland Park Animal Clinic / Canine Country Club
- M Street Vet Clinic
- Emeralds to Coconuts
- Dickey's BBQ
- Alamo Glass
- Old Monk
- Side Streets
- Liquor Shop
- Sports Clips
- Action Chiropractic
- Jason's Deli
- Premiere Video
- Whole Earth Provision Co.
- Kroger
- John's Café
- The Dubliner
- Stan's Blue Note
- Contemporary Theatre of Dallas
- Piggie Pies
- Midtown Chiropractic

**The Vickery Place  
National Night Out  
block party was a  
HUGE SUCCESS  
thanks to these  
generous sponsors.**

**Merchandise**

- Urban Home/Domestic Bliss – Leather chair
- Greenville Ave. Jewelry Workshop – Jewelry
- La Mariposa – Colorful pot
- Another Time & Place – Gift Basket
- The Whimsey Shoppe – Tureen
- Sports Clips – Autographed Jay Novacheck (ex-Cowboy) football
- Action Chiropractic – \$300 of services for \$50 and cervical pillow
- Cierra – Lamp

**Food & stuff**

- Pour House – Sno-cones
- Lucky Liquor Discount – Ice
- The Beagle – Pizzas
- Whole Foods – Bottled Water
- Dickey's BBQ – Plates
- Todd and Laura McCavit - Sodas

**Kids Stuff**

- M-Streets.com, Ken Lampton Realtor – Bouncy House
- Matt & Jodi Simons – Basketball hoop and collapsible trash containers
- Open Door Preschool – Balloons

**Special Thanks to:**

- Assist Chief Dora Falls
- Belmont Homes
- Beth Bentley
- Candy & Richard Hearne
- Constance Craven
- Councilmember John Loza
- Councilmember Veletta Forsythe Lill
- Dallas Police Dept Mounted Squad
- Debbie Alcocer
- John & Debbie Bayless
- Deputy Chief Brian Harvey
- Dietrich Werntz
- Hard Night's Day
- Jesse Brown, USPS carrier
- Les Wollam, Photographer
- Lt Jesse Reyes
- Lucky Liquor Discount
- Melody Nye
- Nicholas & Andrew Alberts
- Officer Al Solis
- Officer Jimmy Johnson
- Officer Keith Allen
- Police Chief David Kunkle
- Rep Dan Branch
- RunOn!
- Sarah & Bill Gustashaw
- Sr Cpl Nick Earwood
- The Old Monk
- Vickery Towers

Kids LOVED the clowns, face painting and balloon animals. Thank you Marissa & Lesley!



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**GET INVOLVED -  
We need you!**

## VICKERY PLACE NEIGHBORHOOD IS YOUR HOME!

WHAT DO YOU WANT FOR THE PLACE WHERE YOU LIVE?

~ *Angi Brown*

This neighborhood is where you call home. This is where you return to rest at the end of your day. For some of us, it is where we both live and work.

Are you concerned about crime? Do you want a plan for new construction? Do you have ideas about nearby development? Have you hoped to meet more of your neighbors? Do you wish to be better acquainted with your city officials and influence public policy? Would you like to raise your neighbors' awareness of neighborhood issues, or thought if I wrote for the newsletter, I'd write about...? All of these things are possible with involvement in the neighborhood association.

Vickery Place Neighborhood Association runs on the enthusiasm and energy of neighborhood volunteers. This neighborhood has been very fortunate in its activity and visibility because we have had great efforts and commitment from many different people: architects, sales people, CPAs, paralegals, project managers, printers, artists, educators, business owners, lawyers, entrepreneurs, administrators, executives, etc. **Your** talents make **you** uniquely qualified to bring a needed perspective and skill set to the neighborhood association's governing body. Our neighborhood activities include:

- One of the best *monthly* neighborhood newsletters in Dallas
- One of the biggest and best National Night Out block parties anywhere! *How about that band this year?!!*
- Trees planted in the parkways and public spaces
- Petition to the city for considering Vickery Place as a Conservation District
- Monthly events that include crime and conservation discussions, guest speakers like city officials and public office candidates, a pet parade, social events at local shops, bars and restaurants, and many more events that allow residents to get to know each other and about the neighborhood.

**We need you!** Without your help, these activities won't continue. Without **YOUR** participation, our neighborhood will become a bunch of strangers living in houses in the same proximity. It is time for some of us to retire. Who will take the lead? You will have an opportunity to:

- Have fun and make new lasting friendships
- Exercise influence in city planning and government
- Make our neighborhood a more attractive place
- Keep our homes safe

And neighborhood service and leadership look good on a resume! There are many advantages to participation. Don't just sit there -- **GET INVOLVED!** By giving just a little bit of your time next year, you can be an officer or board member for the next calendar year.

To learn more about the positions, responsibilities and opportunities, send us an email or drop us a note and a current board member will be in touch with you - [info@vpna.org](mailto:info@vpna.org), or P.O. Box 720192, Dallas, TX 75372.



Vickery Place stickers, like the one above, can be purchased for \$5 each. T-shirts are on sale for \$10. You can buy them each month at our general meeting.

The logo for "The Old Monk" pub is an oval-shaped emblem. It depicts a monk in a dark robe and white apron, holding a large mug of beer. Below the monk, the words "THE OLD MONK" are written in a stylized, blocky font. The entire logo is set against a light background within a dark oval border.

**GREAT SELECTION OF BEERS FROM BELGIUM, GERMANY, ENGLAND, AND IRELAND. LIVELY PATIO AND PUB STYLE MENU.**

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**NATIONAL NIGHT OUT  
BLOCK PARTY**  
If you missed it,  
you missed out!

~ Les Wollam, Photographer

**PLANT OF THE MONTH: FLARE ROSE MALLOW HIBISCUS**

*Hibiscus* sp. 'Flare'

Low maintenance perennial with large, showy, high quality fuchsia-colored flowers. Improved sterile hybrid so it's in almost constant bloom summer till frost. A very refined *H. moscheutos* type; tolerates alkaline soils.

**Hardiness:** Zone 5

**Exposure:** Full sun

**Size:** Height 4 feet tall, 4 feet wide

**Bloom Time:** Summer till frost.

~ Information provided by

[www.texassuperstar.com/plants.html](http://www.texassuperstar.com/plants.html)



**Back by Popular Demand:**  
**Dog Show & Costume Contest**  
**October 14th**  
**Vickery Towers Courtyard**

**MARKYOUR CALENDAR NOW!**

**Quick Ginger Peach Cobbler**

~ Recipe from [www.foodnetwork.com](http://www.foodnetwork.com)



- 2 can sliced peaches in syrup, drained
  - 1 teaspoon ground ginger
  - 2 tablespoons softened butter
  - 4 tablespoons brown sugar
  - 1 cup granola cereal with raisins and nuts
  - 2 egg whites, beaten
- Store bought whipped real cream in canister, from dairy aisle

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F.

Mix drained peaches with ginger. Place sliced peaches in small ramekins or oven safe bowls. Combine butter and sugar with a fork, then mix butter and sugar with granola cereal. Fold in beaten egg white. Mound the topping on top of the peaches in each ramekin. Place ramekins on a small baking sheet and bake 10 to 12 minutes. Remove and cool cobbler while you enjoy dinner. After dinner, serve warm quick cobbler with prepared whipped cream.

*From Vickery Towers*



Vickery Towers residents enjoying burgers and fifties music at a recent pool party.



Oldies entertainer Clay Hammond and VT resident, Cathy Wade

~ Resource: Shelia Hoffman and Terry Abshire, Program Director, Vickery Towers.



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**CONSERVATION NEWS**

By Beth Bentley, VPNA Conservation Committee

As we all know in this day and age, change is inevitable. But as witnessed in other established neighborhoods such as Lakewood Heights, the M-Streets, Belmont Addition, and now Vickery Place, speculative or incremental building has triggered a transformation within the neighborhood, which has begun to erode the distinctive atmosphere and stylistic stamp of Vickery Place. Many residents are asking “what’s going on?”, “what can be done to curb this rapid development?”, —”how can I influence the look of future development within Vickery Place?”



In 2001, when hints of change began to surface in the neighborhood, Vickery Place NA elected to pursue forming a Conservation District. A Conservation District (CD) is a zoning tool used to help communities protect certain characteristics in their neighborhood. Conservation Districts concentrate on protecting such things as architecture styles, densities of the area, heights of structures, and setback guidelines. The process to become a Conservation District typically takes 12 – 18 months from the initial authorizing of a feasibility study (done by the City to determine eligibility) until the adoption of the ordinance by the City Council.

Petitions for the City to conduct a feasibility study within Vickery Place have been canvassed throughout the neighborhood for the past two+ years. Seventy-five percent of homeowners in the proposed area (subject to expansion by City staff) are in support of the City conducting a study. The required signatures and a completed application have been filed with the City Planning Department. The City is slated to initiate the study in Vickery Place in spring, 2005 or as quickly as the Planning Department is able to expedite applications.

Your influence and opinion for the yet--to-be developed ordinance can only happen when you participate. Attend VPNA General Meetings regularly along with city-hosted public hearings/meetings as they are announced. Watch for Conservation updates through the VPNA monthly newsletter and the VPNA web-site, [www.vpna.org](http://www.vpna.org). You may also voice your comments/concerns/questions to your City Council representative.



Vickery Place will always be changing. Change can be positive, if we make a conscientious effort to preserve the history, charm, and distinctive characteristics that make up the fabric of our unique neighborhood.



**MEET THE BOARD - ANTON SKOWRONSKI**



Anton Skowronski has been a Vickery Place resident with his wife, Rollin, and their two cats, Max & Murphy, for three years. Anton was born in Detroit, Michigan and raised in Newport Beach, California. After a five year stint at Southern Methodist University, he left Dallas to return home to California, only to return to Dallas within 6 months. With a degree in Fine Arts, Anton works as a web designer for Wells Fargo, Inc. He joined the Vickery Place Neighborhood Association last year to help prevent the spread of McMansions and to give back to eclectic neighborhood he has grown to love. Together with his wife he enjoys the good food, fine wine and the great friends they have developed in the neighborhood. What Anton loves most about Vickery Place is sitting on the porch of his craftsman bungalow listening to the faint clanging of bells from the ice cream man walking down the street on a late Saturday afternoon.



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Ross & Akard

## SEPTEMBER YARD OF THE MONTH

5306 Miller

Home of Sean Wyatt

The selection for September's Yard of the Month is the home of Sean Wyatt at 5306 Miller. I chose this house for two reasons. The first reason is obviously for its well groomed front lawn which defines the concept, "less says more." The second reason is for the fact that this is a brand new custom built home that looks as though it rose in the neighborhood in the 1920s.



5306 Miller

Sean, a Dallas resident for over ten years, moved into his home January 2004. Sean is one of the lucky ones who purchased a brand new home that fits right in Vickery Place Neighborhood. When Sean spotted this house, the real estate agent was in the process of staking the for sale sign into the ground. The house was under contract two hours later. Sean now lives in a neighborhood surrounded by his friends and his favorite hot spots. He enjoys that his home is ideally located for the things he likes to do.

When I drove by his home, I immediately admired the simple landscaping which was completed by Park Cities Landscaping, and the timelessness of his beige and cream home. When I introduced myself to Sean and informed him that I would like to pick his home for the VPNA September YOM, he was just beside himself with disbelief and gratitude, considering he had just finished his landscaping three hours earlier. Sean kindly reminded me that his front yard is still a work in progress.

The front of his yard is lined with four tall Maple trees. The trees invite the observer to peek between them, revealing a well shaded and simply groomed front yard. The front of the sidewalk is skirted with Mexican sage, and at this time of year, purple flowers loom above them. At the front of the house, a variety of colors welcome you to the entrance up the stairs onto the front porch. A bed of pink & white Impatiens are greeted with medium sized bright red Firebush (*Hamelia patens*), and right behind them, tall Hibiscus hug the front steps. Dark green & dark purple Elephant Ears are planted in large pots that sit atop each of the red brick columns at the top of the steps. Down along the front of the house, below the porch, Amyris Texasans sit in the back with ferns placed in front of them. At the corner of each side of the house are large Hydrangeas that are getting ready for their fall bloom.

For the decades, Vickery Place has been one of the most sought-after residential neighborhoods, and most recently, there has been a high demand for renovating run down bungalows and tearing down the unsalvageable. We have seen a variety of homes replace the old, and there have been renovated old homes and custom built new homes that fit right into the neighborhood which reminds us of the beginning stages of Vickery Place. Sean's home is a two story, four bedroom Prairie style home built by Steve Graham Construction. This home is the epitome of Steve Graham's philosophy of building homes to fit the homeowner and the neighborhood in which the house is built.

Please check out 5306 Miller and congratulate Sean Wyatt for his accomplishments in keeping a home that fits right in Vickery Place. If you have any comments, suggestions or recommendations for the next YOM article, please feel free to email me at [rollin@cheekylittlemonkey.com](mailto:rollin@cheekylittlemonkey.com).

~ Written by Rollin Stone Skowronski



### 2004 Board of Directors

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Secretary: Kris Starbird  
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Sandi Holmes  
Anton Skowronski  
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