



**Time: 6:30-8:30 PM**

**Place: Vickery and Worcola**

**YOU'RE INVITED TO THE VICKERY PLACE BLOCK PARTY!**  
 ~ Jennifer Bryarly

It's time again for our annual block party observance of National Night Out Against Crime! In our continuing effort to fight crime, protect our children and educate our residents, Vickery Place Neighborhood Association is hosting the annual block party on, **August 3, 2004**. The party will feature **Hard Nights Day**, who will rock from **6:30 until 8:30**. This Beatles cover band uses authentic, vintage equipment and has a very authentic sound.

The VPNA National Night Out Block Party is one of the largest in the city. For over twenty years now, neighborhoods across America have been encouraged to 'take back the night'. Clearly, in these difficult budgetary times, citizen participation can only enhance our

neighborhood community and increase the effectiveness of city services, including police crime prevention.

Again this year, the kids can jump around in the Bounce House, play basketball toss for prizes and get free balloons. There will be plenty of food and drinks as everyone sings along with Beatles tunes with Hard Nights Day. As always, plan on buying raffle tickets for prizes from our neighborhood merchants. (See our *growing* list below.)

Getting to know your neighbors, both next door and two and three blocks away, can foster a network of aid and communication. Turn your porch light on, join us at the corner of **Vickery and Worcola**. Bring your family, your kids, your leashed dogs or cats, your friends and neighbors for a terrific night out!



**BIG Thanks to our National Night Out Donors** -Here is a list of donations given *before* this newsletter went to print. We anticipate more donations as our block party nears.

**Gift Certificates**

- M Street Vet Clinic
- Emeralds to Coconuts - \$100.00
- Dickey's BBQ – (6) \$10.00
- Alamo Glass - \$250
- Old Monk - \$50.00
- Side Streets - \$25.00
- Liquor Shop - \$25
- Sports Clips – 10 free haircuts
- Action Chiropractic - \$300 services
- Jason's Deli - \$10 gift card
- Premiere Video - \$30 value w/purchase
- John's Café
- The Dubliner
- Stan's Blue Note

**Merchandise**

- Urban Home/Domestic Bliss – Chair
- Greenville Ave. Jewelry Workshop – jewelry
- La Mariposa – Colorful pot
- Another Time & Place – merchandise
- The Whimsey Shoppe – tureen
- Sports Clips – autographed Jay Novacheck football
- Action Chiropractic – cervical pillow
- Ciera – Lamp

**Kids Stuff**

- M-Streets.com – Bouncy House
- Open Door Preschool – Balloons

**Food & stuff**

- Cuba Libre/Fireside Pies - Food
- Pour House – Sno-cones
- Lucky Liquor Discount – Ice
- Vickery Towers – Popcorn

Volume 23, Issue 8  
 August 2004



**Bulky Trash/Basura Abultado**  
 Don't Set Out Trash Before:  
 Thursday, August 12th

Pick Up Week:  
 Aug. 16th - 20th

**CRIME STATS**

**Dallas Police Department Crime Summary for Block Watch  
June 2004, Sorted by division- NE RA=1143 & NE RA=1144**

**Div= Central Ra=1160**

CRIME	DATE	ADDRESS
ROBBERY	06/28/04	25XX MADERAST
THEFT	06/11/04	53XX BONITAAVE
THEFT	06/25/04	25XX HOMERST
THEFT	06/27/04	HOMX MILLER
THEFT	06/29/04	50XX MILLERAVE
THEFT	06/18/04	54XX MILLERAVE
THEFT	06/29/04	52XX VICKERYBLVD
AUTO THEFT	06/25/04	25XX HOMERST
VANDAL	06/28/04	52XX BONITAAVE
VANDAL	06/17/04	25XX HOMERST
VANDAL	06/11/04	53XX RICHARDAVE
TEL HARASSMENT	06/22/04	22XX N HENDERSONAVE
OTHER	06/05/04	52XX RICHARDAVE

**Div= Central Ra=1161**

AG ASSAULT	06/20/04	19XX GREENVILLEAVE
BURGLARY	06/21/04	55XX BELMONTAVE
BURGLARY	05/27/04	56XX BELMONTAVE
BURGLARY	06/17/04	56XX MILLERAVE
BURGLARY	06/13/04	55XX RICHARDAVE
THEFT	06/16/04	55XX BELMONTAVE
THEFT	06/03/04	56XX WILLISAVE

**JULY RECAP - WINE TASTING MEETING  
AT THE LIQUOR SHOPPE**

~ Kris Starbird

We had a nice turn out for our July meeting which took place on Thursday, July 8<sup>th</sup>. Those who attended had a fun time, which was due to the warm hospitality of Donna and Raymond Wheeler of The Liquor Shoppe, who were gracious enough to allow us to have our wine tasting meeting at their shop. The Liquor Shoppe is located at 5400 E. Mockingbird Lane, in between Premier Video and Whole Earth Provisions. The wines that were sampled had fun labels, such as Goats du Roam. In spite of the silly labels, the wines were wonderful!

The Liquor Shoppe is a family owned business and is operated by the brother/sister team. The shop is a refreshing break from the sterility of the corporate stores and is imparts a warm feeling when you walk in the door. The shop boasts hardwood floors, lace curtains in the windows, comfy armchairs and Celtic music playing in the background.

The Liquor Shoppe carries a wide selection of wines, beers and liquors. But, in my opinion, the best part about shopping at the shop is the expertise of the owners. Donna and Raymond are very knowledgeable about their products and even better, extremely down to earth. I have frequented the shop since it's opening and have never felt the least bit silly asking for a "bottle of wine that goes well with watching television." For anyone who has not shopped at The Liquor Shoppe, I highly recommend a visit. After all, there aren't many places where you can find Monty Python's Holy Grail Ale that this writer knows of.

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## WHERE WERE YOU WHEN THE LIGHTS WENT OUT???

~ Kris Starbird

We are now solidly in the throes of a Dallas summer which mean hot weather with no rain. But all of us can remember the odd weather of June and the torrential rains that took place.

So where were you when the lights went out during that awful storm of June 1<sup>st</sup>? Hopefully, like those of us on my block, you took advantage of the power outage to get outside and get to know your neighbors better. This is how my family spent that darkened night.

We were sitting in our living room watching the storm coverage on the news and had just gone outside to check on the sky, when the lights in our house flickered and went out. My neighbors across the street still had lights, but as I gazed up and down my side of the street, all I could see was darkness. Naturally, some good natured ribbing took place from our neighbors, since they were fortunate enough to still have lights – for about another two minutes. As we watched, their lights flickered off as well. As we all stood on our porches waiting for the lights to come back on, as they always do, we watched the rain coming down in buckets. We waited (and played with our flashlights) and waited. Nothing. After some more yelling back and forth across the street, we decided to take advantage of the fact that our air conditioner was now obviously not running, thereby ensuring that we did not want to be inside in the still air, grabbed our umbrellas and braved the river that was now flowing down our street to join our neighbors on their porch. Their next door neighbor was already there, so a storm party was inevitable.

As more neighbors ventured outside of their houses or arrived home after work, they were greeted with calls to “come join us and have a beer.” At one point the party became loud enough for one member to wonder aloud “What must the neighbors think?” to, which another stated, “What neighbors? *We are* the neighbors!” The party last well past midnight until everyone realized that blackout or no blackout, we all still had to go to work in the morning. The rain had let up by this time and the river had subsided, so everyone said their goodbyes and headed back to their own still darkened homes.

We, not quite ready to call it a night, decided to drive around the neighborhood and survey the storm damage and the extent of the blackout. We were shocked at the condition of the neighborhood and how huge trees had been ripped apart. We finally decided that we had seen enough and it was time to head home to try to get some sleep. As we pulled into our driveway, we were greeted by the sight of a clearing sky and a huge, full moon shining it’s silvery light on our neighborhood. Without all the lights of the city, the moonlight was so bright that it was almost as clear as daylight and witnessing something this rare made even the inconvenience of the blackout worthwhile. The other thing about the night that struck me was the complete silence due to the lack of the hum of electricity.

All in all this was a memorable night and a great opportunity to visit with people that you might only wave to on your way in and out of your house. I hope that you had as much fun as our block did, so much so that it prompted one of our group to say “Maybe we should all turn the lights off one night and do this again.” I think we were living proof that night of the old saying that goes, “When life gives you lemons, make lemonade!”



Neighbors in the 5500 block of Vickery chat by candlelight.

**LIGHT SUMMER SALAD**

~ Rollin Stone Skowronski

- 2 cups corn (if in the mood, roast the corn)
- 15 cherry tomatoes, sliced in half
- 2 cucumbers, peeled, seeded, & diced
- 1 bundle asparagus, cut into half inch pieces
- 1 diced red or orange bell pepper
- 1 finely diced red onion
- 1 can Red kidney &/or black beans

Toss into a Tupperware bowl. The key to this salad is to sprinkle with coarse salt and fresh ground pepper first. Then drizzle olive oil and red wine vinegar to taste. Close the lid, and give it a good shake. Keep refrigerated. Great served alone, in lettuce cups, with meat, with sandwiches; anything that strikes your fancy. Enjoy!



# From Vickery Towers

## Wishes for Terrific School Day Starts!

Vickery Towers residents want to wish all the kids and parents of Vickery Place a fun conclusion to the Summer of '04 and the best start to a new school year!

### Vickery Towers Residents headed out to the Ameritrust Ballpark on August 15!

Get on board with Vickery Towers for the Texas Ranger game vs Tampa Bay Devil Rays on Sunday, August 15.

Vickery Towers Shuttle departs Vickery Towers at 11:30am for the 1:05pm game.

For tickets, call Justin at 817.273.5217; and for Vickery Towers details, call Terry Abshire at 214.826.1113

~ Resource: Terry Abshire, Program Director, Vickery Towers.

## SUMMER SIZZLERS CLASSES, WORKSHOPS & TOURS!



Preservation Dallas's Summer Sizzler series of classes, workshops and tours is back (by popular demand)! EACH SESSION IS LISTED BELOW BY DATE. The cost per session is \$10 for Preservation Dallas members and \$15 for non-members. Take advantage of the discount packages: 3-SESSION PACKAGE for \$25 (members)/\$35 (non-members); 5-SESSION PACKAGE for \$40 (members)/\$55 (non-members); and the ALL-SUMMER PASS (13 sessions for members only) for \$100. All sessions will meet in the Wilson Carriage House, behind the Preservation Dallas offices, at 2922 Swiss Avenue unless otherwise noted. Call Preservation Dallas at 214.821.3290 for reservations and more information.

### 8/3/04 Summer Sizzler: Historic Window Repair & Replacement - Tuesday, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

MEET AT SPECIAL LOCATION: Turner House, 401 N. Rosemont, Oak Cliff. Learn techniques to repair old windows on site at one of the city's treasured historic properties. Held in conjunction with the Oak Cliff Fine Arts Society, this class uses the house as a laboratory where we look at the components of historic windows, window repair and ways to make living with wooden and decorative windows a pleasure rather than a burden.

### 8/5/04 Summer Sizzler: Historic Lighting Repair & Replacement - Thursday, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

MEET AT SPECIAL LOCATION: Turner House, 401 N. Rosemont, Oak Cliff. Take apart a historic light fixture, examine original and replaced lighting, and find ways to locate historic lighting elements for your house. Sponsored by the Oak Cliff Fine Arts Society, this class is a hands-on experience to address a common issue.

**PHONE PRESERVATION DALLAS AT 214.821.3290 TO BOOK YOUR SESSIONS!**

Individual sessions are \$10 for Preservation Dallas members/\$15 for non-members, or take advantage of these specially priced packages:

3-SESSIONS: \$25 members/\$35 non-member    5-SESSIONS: \$40 members/\$55 non-members

ALL-SUMMER PASS (members only): \$100

**PLANT OF THE MONTH - SEDUM**

~ Rollin Stone Skowronski

Evergreen for sun to part shade

*Sedum* spp.

Ht. 2"-6" Spread: 8"-24"

SEE-dum

Spacing 6'-9"



**HABIT:** White, pink, rose, yellow, or red flowers.

Finely textured, succulent groundcover. Easily damaged by foot traffic or pets when the succulent leaves and stems are crushed. Native to Europe and Asia. *Sedum* 'Autumn Joy' is a tall growing perennial with dramatic flowers that are white as they start developing in the summer and end up red in the fall. *S.* 'Ruby Glow' is lower growing and blooms all summer.

**CULTURE:** Easy, any soil, prefers well-prepared and drained beds. Best exposure is partial shade.

**USES:** Groundcover for small areas, Oriental gardens, rock gardens, stone walls and small accent areas.

**PROBLEMS:** Damage from foot traffic.

Information obtained from [www.dirtdoctor.com](http://www.dirtdoctor.com).



Thanks to Lem.Net for hosting VPNA.org



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## YARD OF THE MONTH

5231 Vickery Boulevard,  
*Home of Matt & Jodi Simons*

For the past several years, Sandi Holmes has selected numerous homes for Vickery Place Yard of the Month and her articles were, in my opinion, the most anticipated readings of our neighborhood's monthly newsletter. Sandi has chosen to pass her duties on to a new pair of eyes in order to keep the perspectives and selections of VPNA YOM fresh for our readers. It is an honor to carry on her legacy of these articles.



5231 Vickery

My husband, Anton, and I have resided at Vickery Place for three years. We have been official homeowners for one year at the 5300 block of Vickery Boulevard, and we spent our first two years on the 5200 block. During those first two years, we lived next door to a wonderful family who welcomed us to the neighborhood with open arms, and have since become dear friends to my husband and me. We have watched Matt and Jodi Simons transform their home by bringing it alive for modern day times, but in keeping with the old traditions of Vickery Place homes. It breaks my heart when I see McMansions popping up around our neighborhood, but I get inspired when I see homes such as Matt and Jodi's at 5231 Vickery Boulevard.

Matt & Jodi's Natural Craftsman home not only has a wonderful garden, but their home has curb appeal as well. This couple moved to Vickery Place in 1997, and while raising their two children, Jett & India, who were born into the house, these two have made a great team for the TLC that is needed for original Vickery Place homes.

Jodi decorates her yard with Texas Native plants that thrive in this Dallas summer heat. Their front walk begins off the street with a dry creek bed entrance made with brick from a torn down fireplace. A seven year old Live Oak shades the area, creating an Oasis feel. Surrounding the brick walkway is a wonderful array of Black Eyed Susan, Prickly Pear Cactus, Yucca, Aloe, Sedum, Cone Flower, Aster, Mums, and my favorite, Woolly Thyme. The left side of the yard is lined with two 50-plus year old Crape Myrtles. At the base of these trees are five massive Rosemary bushes incorporated with Red Barberry, Wormwood (*Artemisia*), and Lavendula. The walk up the sidewalk to their front porch is surrounded by Lantanas, more Red Barberry and a well groomed front yard that ebbs and flows with vibrant colors and tranquil movement, and yet it is still a fun place for their kids to play.

Matt & Jodi's home used to be light gray and white, and in 2003 they had their home stripped and repainted by Brian Gream in warm beige with three different trim colors of black, army green and white. Their columns are my favorite part of the home because they sit atop red brick that accents the brick entrance walkway, and the columns present all four beautiful complimentary colors Matt and Jodi compromised together for their home. The pale blue swing on the front porch matches that of the best surprise of their home, which is the ceiling of their front porch. This gives you a reminder of the Simons Family's fun personalities, now a part of their house.

Their driveway, the latest project of their home, has recently been completed with great victory. It is unlike any driveway we have seen in the neighborhood, but it continues with the trend of great style and originality that Vickery Place is known for. The driveway is skirted with New Mexican river rock and Austin limestone. It has a French drain that runs underneath a spread of gravel with decomposed granite which consists of natural aesthetics for soil movement. This is an ambitious driveway for the do-it-yourselfers who are looking for an inspiration.

Please check out 5231 Vickery Boulevard and congratulate Matt & Jodi Simons for their hard work in maintaining & restoring a wonderful home that reminds us of what Vickery Place should be. Have a wonderful August, and I look forward to seeing our friendly neighbors at Vickery Place National Night Out! If you have any comments, suggestions or recommendations for the next YOM article, please feel free to email me - [rollin@cheekylittlemonkey.com](mailto:rollin@cheekylittlemonkey.com)

~ Rollin Stone Skowronski



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*The Vickery Place Neighborhood News is published by the Vickery Place Neighborhood Association. For advertising rates and information, call the VPNA voice mail at 214-967-5134.*