



Vickery Place Neighborhood NEWS

GREENVILLE-BELMONT-HENDERSON-CENTRAL-GOODWIN

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



JANUARY GENERAL MEETING

Date: Thursday, January 12
Time: 7:00 PM
Place : Vickery Towers at Belmont & Greenville Avenue

The January meeting will focus on crime in our community and within Vickery Place. Our ICP (Interactive Community Police) officer will be on hand to discuss crime related issues and to answer your questions.

We will also address VPNA objectives for 2006 and form committees to carry out the goals for the coming year.

* Please note that there is no VPNA General Meeting in December.

May the spirit of this joyous season bring peace to all.



Bulky Trash/Basura Abultado

Don't Set Out Trash Before:
Thursday, December 8

Pick Up Week:
December 12 - 16



**MERRY
CHRISTMAS
AND
HAPPY
NEW YEAR
VICKERY
PLACE**



**December
NO MEETING**

**January 12
Crimewatch &**

Volume 24, Issue 12
December 2005

YEAR END GATHERING

The Vickery Place Neighborhood Association held their last meeting of 2005 and kicked off the holiday season with an old-fashioned potluck supper.

As we say good-bye to 2005 we realize that we have much to be thankful for ~ our families, our neighbors, our friends at Vickery Towers, and all things that comprise our wonderful neighborhood. We are fortunate that we live in a country that allows us to gather and celebrate with one another.



Ham, fried chicken, to die for Mac and Cheese dishes, jambalaya, salads, cakes, pies! You wouldn't believe the spread of food brought in by neighbors to share at this fun get together.

Good food and good company were the priorities of the evening; however, the group did attend to the business of electing officers for the 2006 year.

Eric LeBlanc is returning as President; Shelia Huffman will be Vice President; Bruce Thomas, Treasurer and Lindsey LeCuyer will serve as Secretary. Members at large will be: Christine Haddock, Jennifer Peters, Stephanie Davis Sanoja, Kurt Schwarz and Cynthia Wielgosz & Dean Elliott (serving one position). Beth Bentley and Shelia Huffman will continue to co-edit the Vickery Place News.~ *Shelia Huffman*



MEET THE BOARD FOR 2006

Returning for a second term as VPNA President is Eric LeBlanc. 2006 will mark Eric's 4th year on the VPNA board. Eric and his wife, Tommie, moved to Vickery Boulevard six years ago. Their home has been featured on the Vickery Place home tour and Eric has been an active participant of the conservation movement and all VPNA events. You have seen him as "hot dog man" at National Night Out and the Dog Show. The LeBlanc's have one son, 2 year old Ethan, and are expecting their second child.

Serving as Vice President is Shelia Huffman. She has lived in Vickery Place for 16 years. Shelia has spent seven years on the board and served as secretary and member at large. She is currently co editor of the Vickery Place Neighborhood News. She was instrumental in organizing the Vickery Place conservation effort, has organized past events like the VP dog show and Easter Egg Hunt and has participated in all VPNA events. Her home on Richard Avenue was featured on the 1st VP Home Tour and both conservation and the newsletter are very special interests to her.

Treasurer is Bruce Thomas. Bruce is a long time resident of Vickery Place. He and his wife, Pamela, moved to Vickery Place about 15 years ago. Both Bruce and Pam have served on the Vickery Place board over the years and Bruce served as Vice President for 2005. You may have seen him last February doing an outstanding job of moderating the Strong Mayor Forum and again in April at the City Council candidate forum. Bruce has participated in all VPNA events and is active in the community.

The 2006 secretary will be Lindsey LeCuyer. New this year to both Vickery Place and to the board, Lindsey stepped up with the confidence of an old timer whenever there was a job to be done. Lindsey and her husband, Andrew, live on Willis Avenue. She is an elementary school music teacher and an avid runner. You have seen her handling the raffle at National Night Out, and assisting at other VPNA events and meetings. We are glad to have her enthusiasm.

Filling the At Large positions are:

Christine Haddock is also returning for a second term. A long time resident of Vickery Place she and her husband, John, live on Vickery Boulevard. Christine has been active in selling advertising and getting raffle prizes for National Night Out. Her home was also featured on the first Vickery Place home tour.

Jennifer Peters recently moved to Richard Avenue. She has already shown support of VPNA by attending meetings and functions. You may have seen her at the dog show with her Great Dane. Hard to miss! Jennifer is an architect and conservation is an important issue to her.

Kurt Schwarz will serve a second term as a member at large. Kurt and his wife, Claire, moved to Vickery Boulevard 15 years ago. In the sweltering August heat last summer, Kurt set up for National Night Out and then jumped on a flight for a business trip. That's loyalty! Claire is a board member of the SPCA of Texas and has helped us get volunteers for the annual dog show.

Stephanie Davis Sanoja has lived in the area for the last 11 years. She bought the house she currently lives in on Miller 7 years ago. She and Wulf Sanoja married earlier this year and Stephanie became stepmom to his two daughters, Gabriella and Ariane. Stephanie participated in the Discover Dallas! project, doing a visual survey of some of the 1200 homes in Vickery Place. She has attended various VPNA events & meetings and thinks it is high time she became more involved with the neighborhood association.

Last but not least is the "my better half team." Cynthia Wielgosz served as a member at large this past year, but due to a job that requires a great deal of travel Cynthia is often out of town. She and her husband, Dean Elliott, have agreed to share a position on the board so that when Cynthia is away Dean can fill in. You may have seen and heard Dean as he was master of ceremonies at National Night Out and at the recent dog show.



2006 Board of Directors

President: Eric LeBlanc
Vice President: Shelia Huffman
Secretary: Lindsey Lecuyer
Treasurer: Bruce Thomas
Members at Large:
Dean Elliott
Christine Haddock
Jennifer Peters
Stephanie Sanoja
Kurt Schwarz
Cynthia Wielgosz
Newsletter Co-Editors:
Beth Bentley
Shelia Huffman

The Vickery Place Neighborhood News is published by the Vickery Place Neighborhood Association. For advertising rates and information, email Vickery Place at info@vpna.org.



**The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
When I return home, sure hope they're still there!**

The hustle and bustle of the holidays are in full swing here in Dallas. It is the time of year for visiting family, remembering old friends and celebrating new ones. While it is always prudent to practice proactive crime prevention, the festive and frenzied holiday season makes it easy to get distracted and provide thieves opportunities for crime. Here are a few holiday reminders to help keep your home and yourself safe while shopping during the holidays:

For your home:

- Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows at all times
- Large displays of holiday gifts should not be visible through the windows and doors of your home
- If you leave your home in the evening, be sure to turn on lights and even leave a television or radio on to make the house appear as if someone is home

If you leave town:

- Remember to postpone mail and newspaper services
- Use automatic timers for lights
- Ask a neighbor or friend to watch your home, possibly park their car in your driveway from time to time (and pick up your mail and newspapers and any packages that may have been delivered while you were gone. You may have been able to postpone the US post, but this does not stop the unexpected package that is left on your door step by other mail carriers)
- Beware of package deliveries where couriers have the “wrong” address and suspicious solicitors. Write down tag numbers of suspicious delivery attempts
- After Christmas, DO NOT advertise your new electronics and/or other new valuables that you have just received by putting the boxes out on the curb for bulk pick up. This is an advertisement to thieves of what is in your home

While Shopping:

- Stay alert to your surroundings and the people around you. If you see people “hanging around” parking garages, parking lots, or the outside of stores, avoid the area. Notify the police or security department
- Shop before dark if possible. Be sure to park in a well lit area
- When approaching your car, keep your keys in hand and inspect the interior and area around your car BEFORE you unlock your vehicle
- ALWAYS lock your car – even if you are only gone for a few minutes
- Keep packages and valuables out of sight – preferably in your trunk
- To discourage purse snatchers, don’t overburden yourself with packages
- Do not carry excessive amounts of cash (use checks and credit cards when making purchases)
- Be extra careful with purses and wallets. Carry a purse under your arm with the strap across your body. Keep a wallet in an inside jacket pocket, not a back trouser pocket
- Remind your children about your families safety procedures while shopping in the busy stores this season

Be safe and enjoy the holidays! ~Bill Gustashaw

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OCTOBER 2005 CRIME STATS:

<u>CRIME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>PREMISE</u>	<u>STOLEN</u>
BURGLARY	10/27/05	55XX MILLER	RES	MISC
THEFT	10/10/05	56XX BELMONT	PROFSNL	CLOTHING
THEFT	10/14/05	56XX BELMONT	RES	DRUGS
THEFT	10/12/05	22XX GREENVILLE	RETAIL	CURRENCY
THEFT	10/07/05	56XX MILLER	OTHER	RADIO/STEREO
THEFT	10/05/05	55XX WILLIS	RES	MCYCLE/MINBIKE
AUTO THEFT	10/20/05	55XX MILLER	OTHER	VEHICLES
VANDAL	10/09/05	56XX VICKERY	RES	



WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS

Before meeting a friend for lunch at the Grape the other day, I had a few extra minutes and wandered into the new wine and gift shop next door, Stoney's. What a fantastic find!

Owners, Stone and Diana Savage, spent part of a summer in the south of France and that is the inspiration for their shop.

Although Stoney's specialty is fine wines, imported and artisanal domestic beers, they also offer some gourmet food and gift items such as jams, vinegars and oils. My surprise was the French soaps, linens and pottery.

Diana said that she and her daughter scoured the French countryside for ideas. It paid off! I browsed the store thinking what a unique collection with great prices. I left with some Christmas gifts and am going back for more.

Sandwiched between The Grape and Earth Blooms on Lower Greenville, Stoney's opens daily at 10 am, except Sunday when they open at noon. There is plenty of parking in the back lot.

Hope to see you at Stoney's and be sure to say "hi" to Stone and Diana. I think you will appreciate their friendly service as well as their delightful shop.



Another great find recently joining our neighborhood is Again and Again. That cute little white house trimmed in red at the corner of Bonita and Henderson is a resale consignment store.

Owner, Leslie Pritchard, has a flair for mixing weatherworn finds, both artful and architectural, with antiques and modern pieces. She says she is "passionate" about old furniture and she does prove again and again the old adage that one man's junk is another man's treasure. Again and Again is a kaleidoscope of surprising treasures.

Again and Again is open daily from 10 am to 6 pm. Be sure and stop in and visit with Leslie. You might find just the perfect old treasure for someone on your Christmas list.

LOCAL SCHOOL HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

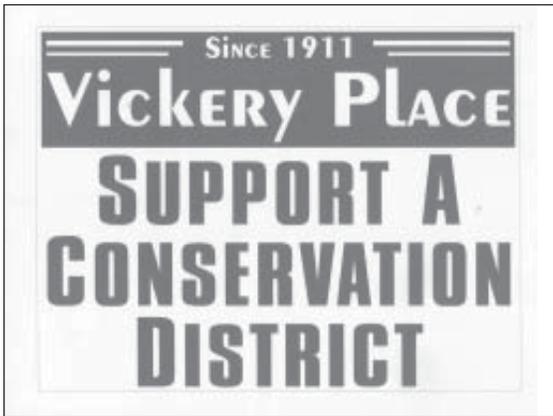
Lakewood Elementary 5th graders will host a Dessert Theater and perform *Broadway Santa* December 15th at 7 pm in the school auditorium. A dessert smorgasbord will be served in the cafeteria following the program.

Bonham Elementary students will perform their *Christmas Program* on December 15th at 6 pm in the school cafeteria.

Stonewall Jackson 1st graders will perform at 7 pm for the PTA on December 15th.

Some local school holiday events are not listed because they occurred prior to the distribution of the newsletter. As you hear of local events, please contact us with information so that they can be included in the newsletter, info@vpna.org.





VICKERY PLACE CONSERVATION TOWN HALL MEETING

The second in a series of conservation community meetings was held on Tuesday, November 15th at Vickery Towers, and was once again well attended. Approximately 75+ residents came to learn more about the building standards that could be incorporated into the Vickery Place Conservation District ordinance for new construction.

Prior to the meeting, the City of Dallas mailed out a conservation feasibility survey to homeowners in the proposed conservation district and it addressed the various standards that could be regulated. Senior City Planners Nathaniel Barnett and Leif Sandberg reviewed the

results of the survey and then took a hand vote of those present.

Amongst the standards the majority wanted to be included were: architectural style, front, rear and side yard setbacks, height of new homes, lot coverage, garage location, and front yard coverage with non-plant material.

Before our next community meeting, City staff will be in the neighborhood measuring and noting the current built environment and will present their findings at the meeting.

Watch for notice of the January meeting (date to be determined) and be sure to attend. Together we can decide the look of future development in Vickery Place. If you have questions or would like a 'Support A Conservation Sign' for your yard, email info@vpna.com. ~Beth Bentley



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WE WISH YOU A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON
DURING THIS SPECIAL TIME OF YEAR, GIVE YOUR FAMILY THE PERFECT GIFT: PEACE OF MIND
GUARD YOUR ESTATE

PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE
TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR HARD-EARNED ASSETS

LET US HELP YOU REACH THESE GOALS WITH A
****WILL PACKAGE****

ALONG WITH ALL THE OTHER RESOLUTIONS THAT YOU MAKE AT THIS TIME OF YEAR,
MAKE THE RESOLUTION TO CONTACT US AT

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THE CHRISTMAS PUPPY

We've all seen the commercials. Big brown eyes, cute button nose, little floppy ears- peering from a stocking on Christmas morning. The whole family is squealing with delight over this special present that proves once and for all there is a Santa. Tis' a warm and fuzzy scene for sure, the Christmas Puppy, but rarely one with a happy ending.

Taking on a dog is an average 15 year responsibility, or at least it should be. Animal shelters are full of dogs brought in by their owner because they chewed the furniture, peed on the carpet, dug up the flowers or cried at night. Shelters are full of dogs who grew to be too much trouble to keep, especially after they were no longer as cute as when they were pups. Other dogs who are no longer wanted are often dumped somewhere to fend for themselves or banned to the backyard to live a life of solitude. Not a happy ending for the adorable little puppy! So please, abandon the gift of the Christmas Puppy instead of the pup.

The decision to own a pet should never be an impulsive one. It should be given a great deal of thought to make sure that your family is ready. And remember, in spite of all the pleas and promises from the children, they are not qualified to take full responsibility of a pet. Proper care of an animal requires adult supervision.

You also need to decide what kind of pet is best for you. If you are ready to add a dog to your home, you need to consider adult size, grooming requirements, exercise needs and temperament when choosing your pet.

It is a major decision and one that should be made when you can devote the proper time to making that decision and training the puppy, not during the hurried, stressful holidays.

Animals can add tremendous joy to our homes and enrich our lives when we give them the love and care they need. When you know that you are ready to take on the responsibility of owning a pet, consider adopting from the SPCA or one of the breed rescues. ~*Shelia Huffman*

MERRY
CHRISTMAS



TURKEY WREATH

Ingredients:

2 cans crescent roll dough
½ c. mayonnaise
2 cups chopped turkey
½ c. celery chopped
½ c. dried cranberries
Salt/pepper
Egg for wash

Combine all ingredients except dough in a bowl. On a large cookie sheet covered with parchment paper, place 8 dough triangles in a circle with points facing out. Place second can of triangles in circle with points facing in. Overlap seams and press together. See illustration. Spoon turkey mixture in the center of the triangles. Criss-cross and seal dough points to make a wreath. Egg wash pastry dough. Bake at 375 degrees for 25 to 30 minutes or until golden brown. Serve warm or at room temperature.



WITH COOKIES TO BAKE, PARTY TRAYS TO CREATE . . .

Holidays mean extra trips to the grocery store. Please remember to use your Kroger Shares card during this busy season. Kroger donates a percentage of the sales to our neighborhood and it really adds up. The money is used to help support our meetings, events and other undertakings throughout the year. Just carry your card in your wallet and present it to the cashier upon checking out or scan it if you are using one of the self service check out stands.

ON THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS & THROUGH THE NEW YEAR, BEING A GOOD NEIGHBOR BRINGS BOUNTY & CHEER

These 12 gifts cost nothing, but can help make Vickery Place a friendlier and a safer place to live:

- 1. Bulky Trash:** Don't put trash out on the curb before the monthly pickup date. It's a fine!
- 2. Pooper Scooper:** Don't let your dog dump in your neighbor's yard. Bag and dispose. It's the law.
- 3. Turn it Down!:** Keep the volume at a level not to disturb your neighbors. After 10pm it's the law.
- 4. Don't Park in the Yard:** City code prohibits parking on an unpaved surface.
- 5. Rake Your Leaves:** Bag them up for bulky trash pickup, or start a compost pile in the backyard.
- 6. Don't Park in Front of Your Neighbor's House:** It's not illegal to park in front of the house next door, but it's rude, and your neighbor may like that spot for his visitors.
- 7. Don't Block the Sidewalk:** If you park in the driveway, pull up so walkers can still pass.
- 8. Barking Dogs:** Don't allow your dog to bark incessantly. Pay attention to his/her needs.
- 9. Drive Friendly:** We're all in a hurry, but take it easy in your neighborhood. Let the other person go first when parked cars clog the street. Slow down!
- 10. Smile and Wave:** Smile and wave when you meet someone walking down the street. Smile and give a wave of thanks when another driver lets you go first.
- 11. Take pride in your neighborhood.** Pick up litter.
- 12. Your Brother's Keeper.** If a gate is left open at the home next door, a dog is out, a package needs to be accepted, lend a hand. And always report suspicious activity to help protect your neighbor's property.

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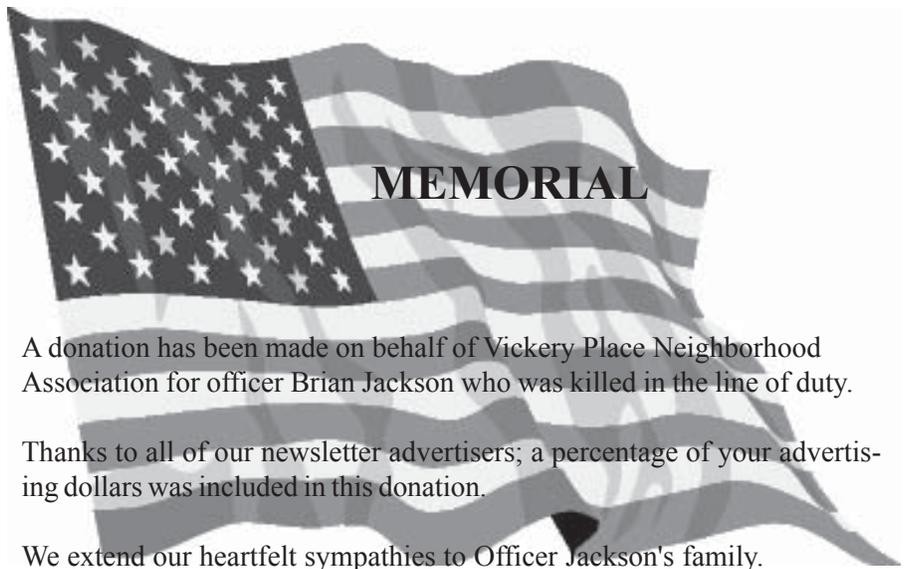


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DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY AND PHOTOSHOP CLASSES



Professional photographer and Vickery Place resident Les Wollam teaches two 5 week courses - Introduction to Photoshop and Digital Photography - at El Centro College in downtown Dallas. Each course is 5 weeks long (3 hours each class on Thursday eve, 6 to 9pm) and costs \$35. Next classes start in January. Please email Les at les@leswollamphoto.com or contact El Centro.



MEMORIAL

A donation has been made on behalf of Vickery Place Neighborhood Association for officer Brian Jackson who was killed in the line of duty.

Thanks to all of our newsletter advertisers; a percentage of your advertising dollars was included in this donation.

We extend our heartfelt sympathies to Officer Jackson's family.

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