



**FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING**

Date: Thursday, February 10  
 Time: 7:00 pm  
 Place : Vickery Towers  
 Main Dining Room  
 (Corner of Greenville & Belmont)

**'HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?'**

You may not think you have a green thumb, but there are some tricks of the trade that can help ensure your spring garden will flourish. For the February 10 general meeting we have invited **Kay Nelson from North Haven Gardens** to speak about early spring blooms and ways to prep your beds. And keeping in step with Vickery Place's centennial year, she will discuss heirloom plants that will accent our 1920s bungalows.



Kay is a Texas Certified Nursery Professional, organic gardener, charter member & past chairman of the North Texas Unit of the Herb Society of America. Kay joined North Haven Gardens in 2005 where she helped to develop the Garden Coach program. As the NHG Garden Coach she helps customers to develop their vision of their dream landscape, then guides them in completing their projects.

North Haven Gardens, sponsor of the VPNA 'Yard of the Month' program, generously donated a gift card to be in the door prize drawing that evening.

Warm up with some tamale soup or home made chili, compliments of the VPNA Board. Cake and cupcakes will be served to celebrate the birthday of Vickery Place Neighborhood Association. Please join us!

**A NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION WAS BORN...1982**

On January 28, 1982, nearly 100 Vickery Place neighbors gathered together in the basement of the Greenville Avenue Christian Church for a meeting with representatives of the Dallas Department of Housing and Neighborhood Services to consider the future of the neighborhood.

At the meeting the staff presented the results of an extensive neighborhood study conducted during December of 1981 and then attendees provided feedback on those results. The staff also presented an inventory of needs for public facilities and services and listed recent accomplishments for the neighborhood. Marvin Krout (Planning Manager) said that in his opinion, neighborhoods with neighborhood associations generally do better than neighborhoods without. During the meeting, approximately 30 neighbors signed a list indicating that they were interested in participating in a neighborhood association, and it was from this list that the North Henderson Neighborhood Association was born. (Later the name was changed to the Vickery Place Neighborhood Association.)

*~ Excerpt from a series of articles titled 'A Snapshot of Vickery Place...1982', published in the 2007 VPNA Newsletters.*

**Bulky Trash Week of the 2nd Monday**

Don't Set Out Trash Before:  
 Thursday, February 10  
 Pick Up Week:  
 February 14 - 18



Volume 30, Issue 2  
 February 2011

**1-DAY Weekly Trash & Recycling Pick-up**

**EVERY MONDAY**



## JANUARY MEETING RECAP - THIS OLD (OR NEW) HOUSE

Remodeling and renovating your home seem to be “in” these days as indicated by the great turnout at the VPNA January 13 general meeting.

**Chris Black, founder of CB Construction** which specializes in design, build and remodel services of homes, indicated his company provides a whole solution approach to your project, from design to implementation. Word of mouth seems to be his best selling tool and he has already completed a number of projects within Vickery Place and the surrounding neighborhoods.



**Russ Peters & Bill Cates of Peters Cates Design & Studio** began their design careers as interior designer and product designer respectively. Merging their design and entrepreneur talents, they now offer interior design, design-built and project management, as well as custom designed furniture and accessories.

Both companies recommended to always ask for personal references when hiring a contractor. As well as setting a budget upfront for your project.

**Appraiser John Scarborough of Crosson Dannis Inc.**, presented a different slant to remodeling indicating that remodeling can add value to your home. Having lived off of lower Greenville for a number of years John has witnessed a dramatic change in overall home improvement in the area.



**Dallas Police Officers Marty Hotchkiss & Jamie McDonald** presented a crime report and relayed that crime in our area is still down however problem pockets remain along the commercial corridors of lowest Greenville and Henderson Avenues. They reminded us to never leave anything in your cars (even small change) as it increases the likelihood of a car break-in.

Thank You all for the very informative evening! And Thank You Vickery Towers for providing our meeting space.



### COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE

VPNA Board Member and Past President Will Short braves the cold to



install one of the first commemorative brass plaques in Vickery Place at 5548 Richard Avenue, home of Shelia Huffman. The association had wanted a plaque to designate the historic neighborhood and conservation district status for some time. Will and architect Daron Tapscott, also a VP resident and past president of VPNA, worked together on the design of the plaque and the finished product became a reality at the end of 2010--just in time for the Vickery Place Centennial.

It is not too late to order yours. You will need to specify on the order form if you have a wood or brick house as the mounting method is different for each. Payment must be made at the time of placing your order. Due to an increase by the manufacturer, the plaques are now \$120 each which includes shipping/handling. To download an order form, go to [www.vpna.org](http://www.vpna.org) or email [info@vpna.org](mailto:info@vpna.org).

## KEEP IT LOCAL

Have you seen the signs in yards and in front of businesses promoting 'Live Local East Dallas' and wondered exactly what that meant?

The Live Local East Dallas's mission is to encourage the community to *think local first* while recognizing the economic, social and community benefits of doing business locally.

The Live Local East Dallas campaign was started in May 2009 when a group of local business and community members gathered together to strategize how to educate and emphasize the benefits of trying to conduct business, shop, and eat locally. The campaign and the 'Live Local East Dallas' signs dotted throughout East Dallas are a reminder to businesses and individuals alike that they have it within their power to make decisions that will keep neighbors employed, locally owned businesses open, community non-profits serving, and local events happening.



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*Happy  
Valentine's  
Day!*

*Happy  
Fat  
Tuesday!*





## THE STORY OF ST. VALENTINE

Saint Valentine is said to have lived in Rome during the third century, a time when Rome was ruled by an emperor named Claudius.

Claudius was having trouble getting men to serve in his army and he felt it was because they did not want to leave their wives and families. He thought that if these men were not married, perhaps they would join the army, so he passed a law banning marriage. Most people thought this law was cruel. St. Valentine, a minister, did not support the law and continued to perform marriage

ceremonies secretly until he was caught and imprisoned where he awaited his punishment of death.

Many young people came to visit Valentine in jail. One was the daughter of the prison guard. On the day of his death Valentine wrote a note to the daughter signed "Love from your Valentine". This was on February 14, 269 A. D.

Some say this started the custom of exchanging love messages on Valentine's Day. Another Valentine custom is giving, receiving and enjoying chocolate. Try this decadent dessert, a take on the ever popular S'mores.

## S'MORE BROWNIES

### **Crust:**

6 T Unsalted Butter (melted)  
1 ½ cups Crushed Graham Cracker Crumbs  
2 T Sugar or substitute  
Pinch of Salt

### **Brownie:**

Your favorite brownie mix and ingredients necessary for preparation

### **Topping:**

4 cups marshmallows



Position a rack in the lower third of the oven and heat oven to 325 degrees F. Line an 8 by-8-inch square baking pan with foil so it hangs over the edges by about 1 inch. (Do not omit this step).

For the crust: Lightly butter the foil with some of the melted butter. Stir the rest of the butter together with the crumbs, sugar, and salt in a medium bowl. Press the crumb mixture evenly over the bottom of the pan. Bake until golden brown, about 20 minutes.

Meanwhile, prepare the brownie mix according to package directions. Pour batter into the prepared pan of crust. Bake until the top is crispy and a toothpick inserted into the middle comes out mostly clean, with a few crumbs, using the suggested time on the package as a guide.

Remove from the oven and carefully position a rack about 6 inches from the broiler and preheat on low. Layer marshmallows across the top and toast under the broiler until golden, (keep an eye on it, it can go quickly) about 2 minutes. Cool on a rack, gently removing the brownies from the pan using the aluminum flaps. Carefully separate any marshmallow from the foil and fold away. Cut into 12 (2-inch) squares.

## LOVE SONGS AND LULLABIES CONCERT

Vickery Place neighbors are invited to a free family friendly concert "Love Songs and Lullabies" on Sunday February 13 at 5:00 p.m. in Nance Fellowship Hall of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 3204 Skillman at Monticello. Tenor John Campione, cellist Francesco Mastromatteo, and pianist Suzanne Anderson will perform lullabies and love songs from Brahms and Bach to Rogers & Hammerstein, Michael Buble and Disney. Dessert and coffee will be served. Donations of diapers and wipes for the Wilkinson Center will be accepted. More info at [www.standrewsdallas.org](http://www.standrewsdallas.org).

## FISH CITY GRILL SPECIALS

**FCG Valentines Day Special** - Linen table cloths and candles, featuring Redfish Pontchartrain and jumbo scallops with a bruchetta topping and drizzled with a balsamic reduction.

**FCG Fat Tuesday Special** – Annual Mardi Gras party with live music, crawfish and other Cajan specials.

**FCG Drink Specials** - New and improved Happy Hour Sunday thru Friday 3-7, Saturday all day featuring \$2 Miller Lite, \$3 wells, \$3 Bloody Marys, \$3 house Margaritas and \$2 Mimosas. On Sundays ½ price glasses and bottles of wine.



## MARDI GRAS

Rex is the King of the Carnival and has reigned as such since he first appeared on Mardi Gras in 1872. The song played in the first parade, “If Ever I Cease To Love” has become the official song of the Carnival and the colors purple, green and gold the official colors. Purple represents justice, green represents faith and gold represents power. Tradition says the colors should be worn during Mardi Gras whenever you are not in costume. Other Mardi Gras traditions include enjoying the rich and colorful “King Cake” and eating pancakes on Fat Tuesday. These

celebrations take place the day before Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. This year Mardi Gras will be celebrated on Tuesday March 8.

## BASIC PANCAKES

~ Courtesy of Food Network Magazine

Mix together 1 1/2 cups flour, 3 tablespoons sugar, 1 tablespoon baking powder and 1/2 teaspoon salt.

Whisk together 1 1/4 cups milk, 1/2 stick melted butter, 2 eggs and a little vanilla, then whisk into the flour mixture until just combined.

Ladle 1/4 cupfuls onto a hot buttered skillet and cook until bubbly. Flip and cook until golden on the bottom. Serve with melted butter and warm maple syrup.

Why pancakes on Fat Tuesday? The custom of making pancakes comes from the need to use up fat, eggs and dairy

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## 12TH ANNUAL LEGACIES DALLAS HISTORY CONFERENCE

*Tales from the Thirties* was the theme of this year's Legacies History Conference. Held at the Hall of State in Fair Park on Saturday January 29, six Dallas historians shared papers on architecture and expositions during the 1930's.

It always brings history to life when we can see the result right here in our community. For instance, the Texas Centennial Architects influenced Dallas homes and buildings as well as many of the Dallas landmark schools in use by our families today such as Woodrow Wilson and J. L. Long. The DeGolyers came to Dallas bringing Spanish influence with the magnificent Degolyer House, but Stanley Marcus and Frank Lloyd Wright could not quite agree on a plan for a home for Mr. Marcus so Mr. Wright left Dallas and went to Pennsylvania where he built his masterpiece *Falling Waters*.



In the years of the Great Depression, expositions were a tool for boosting economy. Choosing this strategy was Chicago, San Diego, Cleveland, San Francisco, New York and Dallas. The Texas Centennial Exposition opened on June 6<sup>th</sup>, 1936 at Fair Park. The Ford building of Spanish and Greek influence was the first air conditioned building on a fairground enhancing its popularity as an attraction. Upon leaving the building, a ride in a brand new Ford along a paved road simulating the American Highways produced an unimaginable educational experience. It must have been like a trip to Epcot for the times. The spectacular building was demolished in 1938. 'Artists and Models' presentation was a rollicking portrayal of two different viewpoints about women and the roles they played at the Dallas Centennial Celebration. While some were artists and photographers others were models and dancers, both sharing their talents to promote the Centennial Exposition. Woodrow Wilson 1937 graduate Georgia Carroll Kyser posed for the "Spirit of the Centennial" statue and 1928 Hockaday graduate Dorothy Webberly Austin created her wood sculpture "Noggin", which is now on display at the Dallas Museum of Art.



Neighbors who attended this year's conference included Shelia Huffman, Beth Bentley and Debbie Simurda shown visiting during the morning coffee break, and Linda Mitchell and Ken Lampton pictured in the newly painted (back to its original décor) lecture hall. ~Shelia Huffman



*Pictured below right is the Hall of State, the centerpiece building of the 1936 Texas Centennial Exposition, designed by architect Donald Barthleme.*



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## DECEMBER 2010 CRIME STATS:

Theft	11/29/10	52XX Miller
Theft	12/3/10	56XX Belmont
Theft	12/5/10	51XX Richard
Other	12/5/10	56XX Goodwin
Theft	12/10/10	52XX Richard
Vandalism	12/12/10	26XX Madera
Burglary	12/13/10	53XX Willis
Vandalism	12/13/10	56XX Belmont
Theft	12/15/10	52XX Richard
Other Assault	12/15/10	29XX Henderson
Theft	12/15/10	56XX Vickery
Vandalism	12/15/10	25XX Henderson
Burglary	12/20/10	52XX Richard
Burglary	12/20/10	53XX Miller
Theft	12/20/10	26XX Madera
Theft	12/23/10	52XX Richard
Family	12/23/10	55XX Miller
Other	12/24/10	25XX Henderson
Theft	12/24/10	56XX Belmont
Burglary	12/29/10	52XX Richard

For a more detailed report of the VP crime stats, visit [www.vpna.org](http://www.vpna.org)

## EXPANDED NEIGHBORHOOD PATROL

Unfortunately, due to insufficient participation in funding the Expanded Neighborhood Patrol (ENP), the VPNA board had to make the difficult decision to discontinue the program at this time.

Those of you who have already contributed to ENP for 2011 will be receiving a letter to inform you of this status and your refund options.

We appreciate your interest in and support of the ENP program. We are actively looking at other, less-costly crime prevention options, including forming a Crime Watch group, posting signs, video surveillance (some neighbors have reported success with this measure) and the implementation of our mutual crime prevention goals through our Crime Watch / Safety Committee. Additionally, we have not ruled out re-joining the ENP program at some future time, if interest and funds permit.

And remember, looking out for your neighbors is the best crime prevention tool any neighborhood has. Get to know one another, know when your neighbor is away and watch out and report any suspicious activity by calling 911.



## LOWER GREENVILLE PD APPROVED

On Wednesday January 26, the Dallas City Council unanimously approved the Lower Greenville Plan. Property owners, business owners and surrounding neighborhood associations (including Vickery Place NA) supported the proposal and applaud the Council on their decision.

The new permit requirement for businesses open past midnight will take effect in 8 months (giving business owners enough time to obtain a permit). The city will be holding an informational meeting soon to explain the process. Streetscape improvements from Bell to Alta will start in July and take about 10 months to complete.

This is the first step to bringing Lowest Greenville back into harmony with the surrounding neighborhoods and back to its explicit purpose as a Community Retail District.

Map to the left shows the proposed boundary of the PD. Thank you Vickery Place neighbors who came down to City Hall for the hearing in support of the PD.

## I LOVE A PARADE

Calling all kids, bikes, dogs, wagons and residents of Vickery Place. Be thinking how you might like to portray *Vickery Place Through the Years* in our forthcoming Centennial parade. Have you a little girl you might dress like Shirley Temple, or a little boy in overalls and a brimmed hat carrying a fishing pole? Ladies, dress like flappers, wear a poodle skirt, and guys, don your leisure suit. Only your imagination is the limit! If you are not into costumes, decorate your bikes, wagons and strollers, bring along your pet and walk the parade route on Saturday morning May 21<sup>st</sup>. Plenty of participants and spectators will make our neighborhood's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday a grand event. Call Shelia at 214-827-4568 or email [info@vpna.org](mailto:info@vpna.org) with your ideas.



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