



**MAY GENERAL MEETING**

Date: Thursday, May 12  
 Time: 7:15 pm  
 Place: Vickery Towers  
 main Dining Room



**ARE YOU CODE COMPLIANT?**

For the VPNA May12 general meeting, we have invited guest speaker **Dan Ware, a Neighborhood Code Representative with the City of Dallas.** Code compliance and enforcement help keep neighborhoods beautiful as well as safe. Dan will give an overview of what his department is all about, highlight some of the more prevailing code violations found in our area, ways the City can help you be in compliance, as well as how to use the City of Dallas 3-1-1 system.

The Code Compliance Dept. is responsible for enforcing more than 900 City ordinances related to Housing, Zoning, Signs, Litter, Illegal Dumping, Weeds, Premise Parking and Animal Control violations. The program responds to citizen requests, conducts proactive inspections and special projects, and provides education on code enforcement.

**VICKERY PLACE WORCOLA WINE WALK**

Saturday May 14, 7 – 10pm

After casting your vote in the Dallas Election, stroll on down to Worcola Street for the first ever **Vickery Place Wine Walk on Saturday May 14, 2011, 7 – 10pm.**

Designated porches on cross streets close to Worcola will offer wine and paired appetizers. The event will begin at 5618 Richard, home of Will & Anna Short. Participants will spend approximately 30 minutes at each house.

This will be a progressive wine tasting starting with Champagnes, moving into white Chardonnays and light red Pinot Noirs, then more complex reds of Cabernets, Merlots, Zinfandels and finishing with dessert wines.

The \$20 purchase of a Vickery Place wine glass will be your ticket and is yours to keep at the end of the evening. These may be purchased at the May 12 general meeting, the night of the event, or on-line at [www.vickeryplace.com](http://www.vickeryplace.com).



A great way to toast Vickery Place's centennial year!

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

Don't Set Out Trash Before:  
 Thursday, May 12  
 Pick Up Week:  
 May 16 - 20

**Vickery Place 1911 - 2011**

Volume 30, Issue 5  
 May 2011

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



## APRIL GENERAL MEETING RECAP - MAYORAL CANDIDATE FORUM

Vickery Place and surrounding neighborhood residents came to hear what the four Dallas mayoral hopefuls had to say at the April 14 forum held at Vickery Towers. Moderated by VP resident Bruce Thomas, the debate was both lively and informative.

Running contenders Mike Rawlings, David Kunkle, Ron Natinsky and Edward Okpa gave their views on a number of topics including property taxes, City services, education and commercial development.

A big 'Thank You' to the candidates for taking time out of their busy schedules, Bruce Thomas for another job well done moderating and Vickery Towers for hosting the forum.



Whoever your candidate of choice may be, exercise your right to vote on Saturday May 14, 7am-7pm. Most of Vickery Place will vote at Vickery Towers (corner of Belmont & Greenville)—to verify your polling location, check your registration status or to see a sample ballot, go to [www.dalcoelections.org](http://www.dalcoelections.org).



**Vickery Place  
Votes!**



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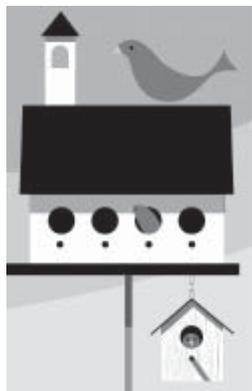
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# How will you celebrate Mothers Day?



## SWISS AVENUE HISTORIC DISTRICT HOME TOUR

Celebrate Dallas' historic past and explore some of the city's most fabulous early 20th century homes at the 38<sup>th</sup> annual Swiss Avenue Home Tour on Mother's Day weekend, Saturday and Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.

Travel between homes in air-conditioned mini coaches or amble down the avenue in horse-drawn carriages, both provided at no charge. Between tours, relax and refresh in Savage Park, where you will find food & beverage, live music and local artisans selling their wares. A Mother's Day Champagne Brunch in Savage Park on Sunday from 11am to 2pm will feature entertainment by Matt Tolentino & The Singapore Slingers, a big-band-era orchestra specializing in music written between 1900 and 1935. Brunch tickets are \$20 per person and

can be reserved by calling 214.701.3396. Home Tour tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 the weekend of the event. To purchase tickets or for more info, visit [www.sahd.org/hometour](http://www.sahd.org/hometour).

## CROQUE MADAME CASSEROLE

~ recipe of Paula Deen of the Food Network

6 tablespoons (1 stick) butter, plus 2  
tablespoons for eggs

1/4 cup all-purpose flour

2 cups milk

2 tablespoons Dijon mustard

3/4 teaspoon salt, plus more for seasoning

1/2 teaspoon pepper, plus more for seasoning

1/2 teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg

10 to 12 slices white bread

3/4 pound deli ham

1 1/2 cups (6 ounces) grated Gruyere, reserve some for top of casserole

6 eggs



Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F. Grease an 8-inch square baking dish. Melt 6 tablespoons of butter in a large skillet over low heat until bubbling. Whisk in the flour and cook for 1 minute. Slowly whisk in the milk and cook until thick and bubbling, 3 to 5 minutes more. Whisk in the mustard, salt, pepper, and nutmeg.

Pour a thin layer of the sauce into the prepared baking dish and cover it with 5 or 6 slices of the bread, then slices of the ham and an even layer of the Gruyere. Repeat

the layers once more, ending with a third layer of sauce to cover all. Bake the casserole for 30 minutes. Remove it from the oven and cut into 6 equal pieces. Top each portion with a fried egg. Sprinkle with reserved Gruyere cheese and return to the oven for a few minutes until the cheese melts. Serve with a simple fruit garnish of orange slices and strawberries and you have a dish fit for a queen on Mother's Day.

## MOM'S DAY OUT

Give Mom a break and take her out for Mother's Day Brunch. Many of our local restaurants are offering champagne, music and brunch.

However you and your family celebrate, send us a photo of you and your mom and we will feature it in the next newsletter.



# Vickery Place Neighborhood



## HAIL TO THE QUEEN

Tea is not only for the Royal Wedding party—VPNA president Selena Urquhart hosted high tea on her front porch to celebrate the 7th birthday of her niece Princess Paige. Selena bought teacups and place settings at area antique shops and created a floral brimmed hat for each young lady, which became their take home party favors. Pinkies up!

## GREASED LIGHTNIN'

After the final performance of *Grease*, Woodrow's 2011 spring musical, Natalie Rachel congratulated sophomore Zach Youpa who portrayed the guitar playing Doody in the musical set in 1959 middle class America.

VP resident Shelia Huffman and family attended the annual high school production. Natalie said of *Grease*, "the best musical I've ever seen, Woodrow or Broadway."



## GRAND FINALE

Proud VP parents Rick and Beth Bentley recently spent time in Philadelphia seeing their son Travis perform his Senior Recital before graduating in May from the University of the Arts. His repertoire ranged from operatic arias, musical theater to jazz and contemporary.

Travis pursued a college career in music after attending Woodrow and graduating high school from Booker T. Washington. He will receive a Bachelor of Music in Jazz Studies: Vocal Performance from UARTs.

## ALL ABOARD THE RODRIGUEZ EXPRESS!

Sergio A. Rodriguez and his children, Anita (5) and Sergio (4) celebrated birthdays with a train ride through Vickery Place and back to their Whistle Stop on Willis Avenue.

Family and friends helped celebrate by enjoying a bounce house and birthday cake. Happy birthday Everyone!



**If you would like the Vickery News to highlight your special event, email details & photo to [info@vpna.org](mailto:info@vpna.org).**

## BE A PART OF VICKERY PLACE HISTORY!

A commemorative cookbook is being created to celebrate the Vickery Place Centennial. It is going to be a memorable and serviceable keepsake to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of our neighborhood. Participation has already been outstanding with many Vickery Place neighbors, current and past, contributing recipes and anecdotes to the book. You won't want to miss out on being included in the cookbook! It will make a great gift in time for Christmas and, of course, a treasured memento for your children.

Send in 2 or 3 of your favorite recipes and a little note about why you like the dish, where you got the recipe, when you serve it, etc. to [recipes@vickeryplace.com](mailto:recipes@vickeryplace.com) and be a part of history. This is truly an exciting project!



## NEIGHBORHOOD NIGHT AT DOWNING HILL

Downing Hill Garden Studio at 3016 Greenville Avenue hosted a Night at Downing Hill for VPNA. Vickery Place residents were able to browse the studio after hours while listening to music and enjoying hors d'œuvres and champagne. Downing Hill Garden Studio specializes in outdoor furniture and accessories in theme garden displays. Owner Tom Henderson is donating 10 percent of the evening sales to VPNA. Thank you Tom for hosting this great community gathering!



## LAKWOODSTOCK FESTIVAL...GROOVEY

Stroll, stride, push or pedal to the Lakewood Village Shopping Center on Sunday May 15 and enjoy a family-oriented arts and music festival from 12 noon–8 pm. (Boy Scout Troop #325 will be on hand to check your bike on the north side of the event.)

Several stages will showcase local musicians (Colin Boyd, Local Honey and Jackson Eli just to name a few). Neighbors are invited to shop, eat and drink locally. Booths will feature community artists displaying their unique works, lots of kid activities, as well as great shops and restaurants. Admission is FREE!

The Lakewoodstock Festival is geared towards 'Living Local'—promoting area businesses, supporting local talent as well as celebrating living in East Dallas. [www.lakewoodstock.com](http://www.lakewoodstock.com).



## BE A DOCENT AT THE VICKERY PLACE CENTENNIAL HOME TOUR!

This is your opportunity to get involved with VPNA and learn some history of the houses that make up our unique neighborhood. For volunteering you will be provided with the information about the home and you will receive a free ticket to the tour. A Saturday evening (October 15) pre-tour party will set the tempo for Sunday's (October 16) home tour. If interested, email [info@vpna.org](mailto:info@vpna.org).



Photo by Ken Lampton

## A PEEP AT THE COOPS THE URBAN COOP TOUR

Sunday May 22, 2011 11am - 5pm

Due to “fowl weather”, the Urban Coop Tour originally scheduled for Sunday May 1 has been postponed till Sunday May 22, so mark your calendars!

The second annual Peep at the Coops, a free self-guided tour featuring homes of backyard chickens around the beautiful East Dallas area, will be held on Sunday May 22, 11 am – 5 pm. Visitors will have the opportunity to see many different breeds of chickens, learn about their unique personalities and characteristics, as well as seeing a variety (and many times customized) habitats. Several other sustainable practices will be on view as well, such as beekeeping, composting, rainwater harvesting and more!

Profits from the tour will go towards the Stonewall Gardens (at Stonewall Elementary) to continue their mission of supporting the learning garden to increase the students understanding of science and their connection to nature. For a tour map: [www.apeepeatthecoops.blogspot.com](http://www.apeepeatthecoops.blogspot.com), [www.stonewallgardens.org/news-events/peep-at-the-coops-2011](http://www.stonewallgardens.org/news-events/peep-at-the-coops-2011).

## VPNA ZONING & BOA POLICY ISSUES FOR MAY DISCUSSION

**Zoning:** # Z101-209 - There will be a hearing before the City Plan Commission regarding the proposed rezoning of 5110, 5114 & 5118 Miller Avenue. These 3 lots, approximately 23,508 sq ft tract of land, are currently zoned residential (TH-3) and the applicant proposes to re-zone them to commercial retail (CR).

**Board of Adjustment:** # BDA 101-039 - There will be a hearing before the City Board of Adjustment for the variance to the height regulation at 2819 Greenville Avenue. The commercial property is limited in height to 26 feet due to the residential proximity slope regulation. The applicant proposes to build a non-residential structure with a height of 33 feet which will require a 7 foot variance to the maximum building height regulation.

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## HOW TO DISCOURAGE POSSUMS FROM YOUR BACKYARD

Opossums should really be left alone. They are beneficial by eating the harmful, unwanted pests around your home such as snails, slugs, spiders, cockroaches, rats, mice and snakes. There seems to be a common misconception that they carry rabies. Any mammal can carry rabies but the opossum is less likely than others due to its low body temperature. Like all wildlife, they do carry fleas. And, beware, if you try to pick one up, they will bite. After all, they are wild animals. As far as your pets go, the opossum is more afraid of your pet than your pet is of it. Still, you don't want your dogs bitten by or in a fight with anything so it is preferable that the opossum not share their fenced space.

If you would like to discourage the opossum from your backyard there are several steps you can take. Repair any holes or openings in your fence. Do not leave pet food out at night. Put out only enough bird seed that will be eaten in one day. Keep garbage cans covered. Pick up fruit that has fallen from trees. Clear dense bushes, woodpiles and other hiding places. And certainly, don't leave garage doors, pet doors, or unscreened windows open at night or you may encounter an unwanted house guest at breakfast.

## HIGH WEEDS - CODE COMPLIANCE REMINDER:

With spring rains come lush and green lawns, but this can also mean high grass and weeds. Please keep your lawn trimmed and maintained—not only will it look nicer, but you won't get cited by the City!

According to the City of Dallas Section 7A-18/Section 18-13(a): homeowners or tenants are responsible for keeping their lawns mowed, clipped, mulched or cleared and the property free of litter (garbage, paper, cardboard, wood, glass, bedding, auto parts, appliances, limbs, etc.). The property must be maintained between the curb in front of the house (or if no curb then from the edge of the pavement) to the middle of the alley. Weeds or grass more than 12 inches high is a violation of the City Code. Failure to do so may result in a court citation and/or a bill for the City's mowing services.



As you mow your yard, remember to sweep grass clippings off the sidewalk, driveway and street and dispose of them properly. You can place clippings back on your lawn where they will act as a natural fertilizer.



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**MAY YARD OF THE MONTH**

5435 Miller - Floyd Conrad and Phil Vaughan have lived in Vickery Place, in the same spot for 15 years and "...just love it, and wouldn't live anywhere else." They actually earned Yard of the Month 13 years ago and are excited to be recognized again. Their long-time home needed a complete re-haul and so they started from scratch on the same lot 2 years ago including their landscape design. Since then they have mostly maintained and changed out flowers. They are pleased that perennial plantings and succulents are thriving after the freezes this year: noting that 80% came back. They also credit their irrigation system that was put with the upgrade in keeping the yard in top shape.



In thanks for their beautiful yard Phil and Floyd will receive a \$25 gift card from North Haven Gardens.

~ Carrie Camen, Beautification Committee Chair

**If you see a yard to nominate for the Yard of the Month award, contact Carrie at [info@vpna.org](mailto:info@vpna.org).**



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*The Vickery Place Neighborhood News is published by the Vickery Place Neighborhood Association. For advertising rates and info, email Vickery Place at [info@vpna.org](mailto:info@vpna.org).*

**Remember, per the City of Dallas Water Conservation Ordinance: April 1 thru November 1, DO NOT water your yard between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.**

