

**May Meeting:  
 Crime, Code,  
 & Conservation**

**Date: Thursday, May 13<sup>th</sup>**

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

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

**THREE C'S: CRIME, CODE, AND CONSERVATION**

*~ Leslie Farrell*

At May's VPNA General Meeting, we will be discussing and presenting our common favorites: crime, code compliance and the pursuit of conservation district zoning.

Join us on May 13 at 7pm at Vickery Towers!

**GANGS IN EAST DALLAS: HOW TO RECOGNIZE THEM**

*By Sandy Graham, Mill Creek Homeowner's Association, East Dallas*

***Some Vickery Place residents have been concerned with symbols and tags and graffiti markings on property in Vickery Place, and, as a favor to VPNA, Sandy Graham shares her report of the Gang Unit meeting held at Grace United Methodist Church on Junius.LAF.***

On Monday April 19<sup>th</sup>, Officer Muñoz from the Dallas Police Department Gang Unit in the Youth and Family Support Division gave a slide presentation and discussion of gangs - what to look for and behavior patterns. He was followed by Sgt Ray Ball from the DPD East Dallas Store Front and Polly Weidenkopf from the East Dallas Weed and Seed discussing after school programs.

Officer Muñoz's presentation was over 45 minutes long and covered all aspects of gangs. A Gang is defined as 3 or more members, juvenile or adult, who interact, frequently using a common gang name, tattoos, similar clothing, and even hand signs, special language/ words, and graffiti. They often wear clothing of similar colors and bandanas, e.g. "Crips" wear blue or brown and the "Bloods" wear red. They like to take group photos - which is handy for the police. If you suspect gang activity and see a bandana hanging from the car interior mirror, this is a good indicator of a gang. But remember it is not illegal to belong to a gang. Some gangs want their members to respect their family, care about their school, their race, and not participate in illegal activities. Unfortunately, some gangs engage in criminal activity, firing of weapons, dealing drugs, and that is when we should be concerned. (Continues on page 4.)



Photo: S Graham

**Bulky Trash/Basura Abultado**

**Don't Set Out Trash Before:**

Thursday, May 8th

**Pick Up Week:**

May 10th - 14th



<u>CRIME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
Theft	02/27/04	54xx-Belmont
Auto Theft	03/01/04	51xx-Richar
Burglary	03/02/04	52xx-Richard
Vandal	03/02/04	25xx-Madera
Vandal	03/04/04	52xx-Richard
Ag Assault	03/06/04	55xx-Willis
Tel Harassment	03/07/04	56xx-Miller
Ag Assault	03/07/04	54xx-Richmond
Theft	03/08/04	26xx-N Henderson
Vandal	03/08/04	52xx-Bonita
Other Aslt	03/09/04	56xx-Willis
Theft	03/11/04	52xx-Bonita
Vandal	03/11/04	53xx-Belmont
Theft	03/12/04	51xx-Willis
Vandal	03/13/04	56xx-Richard
Theft	03/14/04	53xx-Richard
Ag Assault	03/16/04	56xx-Willis
Burglary	03/16/04	56xx-Belmont
Other Aslt	03/16/04	23xx-Madera
Other Aslt	03/16/04	23xx-Madera
Other Aslt	03/17/04	51xx-Miller
Other Aslt	03/17/04	51xx-Miller
Burglary	03/20/04	54xx-Belmont
Other Aslt	03/21/04	25xx-N Henderson
Auto Theft	03/22/04	51xx-Richard
Ag Assault	03/25/04	53xx-Manett
Theft	03/27/04	51xx-Richard
Vandal	03/28/04	25xx-N Henderson
Vandal	03/30/04	25xx-Madera

• **APRIL MEETING - VPNA WAS IN THE**  
• **KITCHEN WITH SUR LA TABLE**  
• April's General Meeting was held at nearby  
• merchant, Sur La Table, on Travis. About 20 to 30  
• people enjoyed an evening of fun and socializing, a  
• cooking demo, pantry ideas, snacks and a 10% off  
• coupon to a kitchen store. Some new faces turned  
• out for this informative evening.



Neighbors young and old enjoyed the Sur La Table cooking demonstration.

• In conclusion, the attendees were polled as to their  
• interest in more social outings such as April's  
• meeting. New ideas were discussed such as having  
• impromptu porch parties where everyone you know  
• in the neighborhood is invited over.

Interest was polled for anyone interested in working with the technology committee to make the website a more robust 'community center'. No compelling concerns arose in discussion. Neighbors shopped the store.

The Sur La Table employees were superb hosts!

**MEET THE BOARD - Todd McCavit**

Todd McCavit, a five year plus Vickery Place neighborhood resident, is currently serving as on the board as Treasurer. Todd spent his formative years growing up in Pampa, TX located up in the Panhandle of Texas. He spent every summer for 10 years working on large wheat farm. Todd went on to attend Texas Tech University majoring in Accounting and MIS. Todd grew up playing sports and went on to become a kicker at Texas Tech. Todd is a manager in the Dallas office of Protiviti, a risk consulting company.



Todd and Laura in Florence

Todd recently started competing in triathlons, completing his first triathlon in the Spring of 2003. He is also a dedicated runner and has completed three marathons.

Todd and his wife Laura met in grade school in Pampa, TX. They married while still in college. She is a dietician working as a Sales Rep for Ross Pediatrics.

While nothing is currently in the works, they have plans for expanding the family in the future. They currently share their home with 2 dogs, a Weimaraner (Sky) and Mut from the SPCA (Molly).

# *From Vickery Towers*

## **BRIDGE THE GAP**

*By Ben Graham*

Lakewood Elementary School third graders are participating in a program of communication with many residents of Vickery Towers.

Last week, two buses of people rode over to the school for a nice program performed by the students. They sang, read poetry, etc, and one boy played a selection on the piano. Afterwards, the faculty and students served refreshments and visited with the Vickery Towers people. We are looking forward to their next visit to Vickery Towers.

One of the benefits of this program is an exchange of letters among the third graders and the Vickery Towers residents.

## **VT'S ABSHIRE PERFORMING IN 'OUR TOWN'**

*From ArtsFirst, First United Methodist Church*

A classic portrait of small town, New Hampshire life at the turn of the (20<sup>th</sup>) century, Thornton Wilder's **Our Town** delivers a message of hope and living every day to the fullest. Through the loving examination of life's daily routine, Wilder moves us deeply through time, memory, family, community and spirituality. Vickery Towers residents will in attendance the evening of May 6.

Vickery Tower's Program Director, Mr Terry Abshire, is performing a role under Karon L Cogdill's direction of **Our Town** scheduled for April 30, May 1, 6, 7 & 8 at 7:30pm, at the Wortley-Peabody Theatre in the Rotunda at First United Methodist Church, 1928 Ross Avenue. Call Music & Arts Ministries at 214.220.2727, ext 218 for tickets and information.

## **From Martha Stewart's kitchen**

*Presented by Angi Brown*

**Deviled Eggs** Makes 1 dozen eggs (2 dozen halves)

**12** hard-boiled eggs

Coarse salt and freshly ground black pepper

**3 ½** tablespoons Homemade Mayonnaise, or prepared

1 teaspoon curry powder

### **for Basil Pesto Deviled Eggs**

½ cup fresh basil leaves roughly chopped

3 tablespoons prepared mayonnaise

### **for Crème Fraîche Deviled Eggs**

3 tablespoons crème fraîche

2 teaspoons Dijon mustard

4 cornichons, minced (about 1 tablespoon)



1. Peel hard-boiled eggs and cut them lengthwise. Carefully remove yolks; place 4 yolks in each of three bowls. Set whites aside. Mash yolks with a fork.
2. Add mayonnaise and curry powder to one bowl; mix. Season with salt and pepper.
3. Place basil and mayonnaise in bowl of a food processor; blend about 2 minutes. Add basil mixture to second bowl of yolks; mix. Season with salt and pepper.
4. Add crème fraîche, mustard, and cornichons to last bowl of yolks; mix. Season with salt and pepper.
5. Fill eight reserved egg-white halves with each filling; serve.

## GANGS IN EAST DALLAS: HOW TO RECOGNIZE THEM - continued from page 1

Gang members can range from children around 9 to 10 years old to adults. There are both male and female gangs, with some females joining male gangs. They join gangs in order to obtain a sense of identity, for family needs, because of family issues, as well as for excitement, protection, money, and to be with friends. There are several ways to join a gang: live in the neighborhood, be claimed (very few require criminal activity), “walk-in” (i.e. ask to join), or to “jump-in”. “Jumping In” means that the person is physically beaten and kicked by gang members as an initiation. (Similarly, if the person chooses to leave that gang, he will have to “jump out” which means he will again be beaten except more severely.) The troublesome male gangs may deal in contraband or steal to obtain money. There are not as many “girl” gangs. It is not uncommon for the woman gang members to hide contraband. Occasionally, woman will join a male gang and their initiation may be “favors”. Remember not all gangs and gang members engage in criminal activity.

Within Dallas, Officer Muñoz estimates that there are about 75 gangs with 4,000 to 5,000 members. In East Dallas there are from 4 to 6 gangs. Kids often join gangs in Middle School; this is a critical age to watch. The “East Side Homeboys” gang is all over Dallas, as well as in East Dallas. The gang initials (for example “E.S.H.”) frequently are used on clothing to indicate gang membership or it is found in graffiti (see photo below). Another gang is “El Varrío 13”, 415 Bloods. The “East Side Latin Loka” is one of the female gangs. And *no*, sneakers over the telephone wires do not denote boundaries for gangs.

One of the most confusing issues is graffiti versus “tagging”. Graffiti is an indicator that there are gangs in the area, but there may be people who are called “taggers” who paint graffiti as a way of self-expression. It can be difficult to tell the difference, but in a nut shell, usually the taggers create interesting art work; whereas, the gang graffiti has more names and symbols and sometimes serves as territorial markers. There maybe a “roll call” of the members of a gang or their nicknames in the graffiti, and with “cross-outs”—that is, members of one gang crossing out the names of the other gang members to show superiority (see photo on front page). An interesting website to study which discusses types of graffiti and gangs is [www.streetgangs.com/slides/graffiti/frame.htm](http://www.streetgangs.com/slides/graffiti/frame.htm)



Photo: S Graham - East Side Homeboys.

Finally, while this discussion has focused on neighborhood/street gangs, there are also prison gangs which are much more dangerous. These are individuals and youths who have been in prison, joined a gang while in prison, and when released they still function within these gangs. Also, there is a very violent gang from El Salvador called Mara Salvatrucha - they use a lot of tattooing. These gangs are handled by a different unit than the Gang Unit.

What can be done? First there is consistent abatement of graffiti to discourage gangs from tagging and forming, but more importantly part of the solution is in prevention and education of youth and their families and neighborhoods. Sgt Ball from the East Dallas Store Front discussed their initiative with the East Dallas Weed and Seed to mentor truants from Spence Middle School and North Dallas High School. In this developing program, they hope to teach decision making to these students and teach them a way to succeed. Hope for a future. He is also seeking community involvement – showing these teens what possibilities are available through discussion with doctors, lawyers, architects, entrepreneurs, restaurateurs, etc. Additionally, Polly Weidenkopf discussed the basketball and ballet folklorico after school programs funded at Cesar Chavez, as well as a golden gloves boxing program and Young Marines Program.

If you would like to share in these efforts, please call Sgt Ball at 214-670-5514, or Mrs. Weidenkopf at 214-828-0258. To contact Officer Munoz of the Gang Unit call 214-671-GANG.

## ORGANIC TIPS FOR INSIDE AND OUTSIDE YOUR HOME

~ Sandi Holmes

I know many people are uncomfortable with change, or maybe even skeptical about organics; Does it work? Is it expensive? What do I use? Where do I get it? These are perfectly logical questions that I even had a few years ago. I can say however, that my family and I have not used one ounce of pesticides inside or out in over 5 years. We grow vegetables in our backyard (without the aid of synthetic fertilizers) and have never lost a plant to pests or diseases.



If you open your mind to using what nature has already provided you will truly be amazed and the results. I challenge any of you to email me with a plant question or pest situation and I'm sure that there's a tried and true organic remedy out there that will help.

If you're an organic gardener, or you just have a good organic remedy to something, please email me with the information and we'll publish it.

**Cornmeal** - I'm sure most of you have it in your kitchen right now. Did you know it has incredible uses in your gardening, landscaping and inside your home as well? Cornmeal is a natural fungal disease control. This fact was discovered by the staff at A&M Research Station in Stephenville. Use it 20lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft. around disease prone plants like red-tip photinias, Indian Hawthorns, fruit trees and on your turf. Do your roses ever get black spot? That's a fungal disease. Sprinkle a couple of handfuls of cornmeal around the base of the roses and spray it on the leaves by filling part of a pair of pantyhose with cornmeal and soaking it in water. Spray the water on the roses with the blackspot. Do you or someone you know have a problem with athlete's foot, toenail fungus etc? Get a pan large enough for your feet; put a couple of inches of cornmeal in it and enough warm water to cover the cornmeal. Let it sit for an hour. Put your feet in the pan and add enough warm water to cover the problem area, letting it soak for an hour. Try this once or twice a week and it should make a huge difference in the problem, if not resolve it altogether.

**Fire Ants** – There are a few non-chemically laden products out there to control fire ants. They are Garden-Ville Fire Ant Control, Garden-Ville Auntie Fuego and GreenSense Soil Drench. Call Redenta's Garden Center on Skillman or NorthHaven Gardens to see if they carry these. Pour it in the center of the mound until flooded. To make it a more powerful for fire ant control, add molasses and citrus oil. Fire ants hate molasses because it encourages microorganisms in the soil that kill the ants.

Licensed Insured



**SCOTT**  
ROOFING • SIDING • WINDOWS  
10561 Church Rd., Dallas, Texas 75238

**Your neighborhood home improvement specialists**

For a **FREE** estimate call  
*Charlie Wright*  
**214-503-7663**  
www.scottrroofing.com





**ANDRES REAL ESTATE**  
Commercial Properties

2800 N. Henderson Ave., Suite 200  
Dallas, Texas 75206-6542  
(214) 821-6087 Direct  
mla51@swbell.net

There are a couple of other organic products that have shown to help with getting rid of these pests, but they all work better if you do a couple of things:

- Create diversity in your soil. Use products, such as liquid molasses that feed and encourage the microscopic creatures in your soil. Believe it or not, there are millions in your front yard.
- Stop using chemicals and allow the natural predators to come back to your lawn and on your plants to take care of things naturally.
- Remember, there are such things as good bugs. Learn more about the natural predators. Pesticides kill indiscriminately; the good and the bad. If you stop spraying the good ones will come to feast on the unwanted. Try the Texas Bug Book, for an interesting bug education.

Interested in learning more? Email me [sandimholmes@yahoo.com](mailto:sandimholmes@yahoo.com) and I'll send you more info.



**Work Out For FREE!**

**May 1 - 12**

We guarantee *you'll feel comfortable* at the YMCA, where our members come in all shapes & sizes. And we'll make it EASY for you to get in shape for summer. Tone up in a yoga class, take a dip in our heated pool - whatever you'd like - in our **no-obligation OPEN HOUSE** from May 1-12.



Downtown Dallas YMCA  
SW Corner of Ross & Akard  
214-954-0500  
[www.DowntownDallasYMCA.org](http://www.DowntownDallasYMCA.org)

**1/2  
Off Joiner Fee  
May 10 - 14**

**WATER CONSERVATION MAKES SENSE AND SAVES CENTS - Be waster wise in every season!**

*Presented by Leslie Farrell; collected from the City of Dallas website.*

**Conserve water, save money** - Residents using more than 15,000 gallons of water per month will pay a higher rate for that water above 15,000 gallons. Commercial customers using more than 10,000 gallons and more than 1.4 times their annual monthly average also pay a higher rate. Average residential use in Dallas is 10,000 gallons a month.

**New systems must have rain and sensing devices** - Irrigation systems installed on or after Jan 1, 2002 and all systems in operation after Jan 1, 2005 must be equipped with rain and freeze sensing devices.

Sistemas de irrigacion instalados en o despues del primero de enero de 2002 y todos los sitemas en operacion despues del primero de enero del 2005 deberan tener un detector de lluvia y de congelamiento.

**Fines** - Violators of outdoor water restrictions could be fined between \$250 and \$2,000.

**Lawn and landscape watering restrictions** - *A person commits an offense if violations occur on property that he owns, leases or manages.*

*Una persona comete una ofensa si las infracciones ocurren en una propiedad que le pertenece, qu arrienda o administra.*

> It is an offense to water a lawn or landscape in a manner that wastes water or causes runoff. Do not cause water to fall on sidewalks, driveways or other areas that are not lawns or landscapes.

> It is a violation to operate an irrigation system with broken or missing sprinkler heads or one that is poorly maintained and leads to water waste.

> Do not water or irrigate lawns or landscapes during any form of precipitation.

**Watering or irrigating lawns or landscapes is prohibited between the hours of 10am and 6pm from June 1 - Sept 20 of any year.**

**El regar o irrigar los cespedes o jardines esta prohibido entre las 10am y 6pm desde el lro de junio al 30 de septiembre de cualquier ano.**

For water conservation information, call 214.670.3155. Full Spanish text available on-line at [www.dallascityhall.org](http://www.dallascityhall.org).



**HENDERSON CONVENIENCE**  
 NOW OPEN! DELI SERVING BREAKFAST & LUNCH - FULL MENU  
 EAT IN OR TAKE OUT - "PARA LLAVAR".  
 GREAT TACOS - EGG, CHICKEN OR BEEF \$1 EACH  
 2831 North Henderson (214) 821-7699

---

**LUCKY LIQUOR**  
 OPEN 10AM TO 9PM MONDAY TO SATURDAY  
 CLOSED SUNDAY  
 2835 North Henderson (214) 824-8456



**RE/MAX Associates of Dallas, Realtors**

***W*streets.com**

**Ken Lampton / 214-502-5858**  
 Selling Homes In Vickery Place Since 1985

## MAY YARD OF THE MONTH

The yard of the month for May goes to 5515 Goodwin, the home for the last 2 years of Christopher and Amy Briggs and their kids, I mean cats, Jordon and Scooter. This fully renovated 1926 house is of the Arts & Crafts style but has a stucco finish on it, that makes it a little harder to distinguish the original style, but that stucco has also made it very unusual and quite charming.



5515 Goodwin

to dark blue blooms in the spring and summer. These are perfect choices for this area because they will withstand the heat of the cars and the surrounding cement and both are evergreen.

The beds by the house are mixed with evergreen perennial plants like nandina, salvia and rosemary but also annuals for splashes of color like lime green sweet

potato vine and colorful pansies. A pretty trumpet vine snakes up the side of the house, that eventually be covered in long orange blooms.

**Plant:** grasses, trees, tropical flowers, warm season annuals summer bulbs and fall-blooming perennials.

**Prune:** Climbing roses and spring-flowering shrubs, vines and trees after they have bloomed.

**Water:** Deeply and infrequently. Watch your potted plants closely!

**Pests:** Look to North Haven, Redentas or Lakewood Garden Center for beneficial bugs you can buy and release into your garden. Let them do the work for you, naturally.

Email me with questions or comments,

Happy Gardening,

Sandi  
sandimholmes@yahoo.com



### 2004 Board of Directors

President: Leslie Farrell  
Vice President: Eric LeBlanc  
Secretary: Kris Starbird  
Treasurer: Todd McCavitt

At Large: Burton Brillhart  
Angi Brown  
Sandi Holmes  
Anton Skowronski  
Jennifer Bryarly (Editor)

*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.*



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

**"BEST PUB"**  
DALLAS OBSERVER 1999

2847 HENDERSON AVE  
PH. (214)821 1888  
MON-FRI 4pm-2am  
SAT/SUN 1100A-2am