



# Vickery Place Neighborhood NEWS

GREENVILLE-BELMONT-HENDERSON-CENTRAL-GOODWIN

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## JANUARY GENERAL MEETING

Date: Thursday, Jan. 8<sup>th</sup>  
Time: 7:00 PM  
Place: Vickery Towers at  
Belmont & Greenville

### **VPNA 2004 GENERAL MEETING DATES**

The following dates are the second Thursdays of each month throughout 2004 and are the occasions of our regularly scheduled VPNA General Meetings. Meeting time is at 7pm and meeting location continues to be the Main Dining Room at Vickery Towers, unless a different location is announced in the monthly newsletter.

Plan to join us as often as possible throughout the year and get to know your neighbors and contribute to better living in Vickery Place!

- January 8, 2004
- February 12, 2004
- March 11, 2004
- April 8, 2004
- May 13, 2004
- June 10, 2004
- July 8, 2004
- August 3, 2004 - National Night Out
- September 9, 2004
- October 14, 2004
- November 11, 2004
- No meeting scheduled in Dec.

~ Leslie Farrell

## **VPNA JANUARY MEETING PLANS**

~ Leslie Farrell



The first General Meeting of 2004 of the Vickery Place Neighborhood Association is scheduled for the second Thursday of the month on January 8, 2004. The meeting will be held at long-time good neighbor's dining room at Vickery Towers at the corner of Belmont and Greenville Avenues at 7pm.

January's meeting has been planned for continued conversation begun in September 2003 with police and city leadership. The Dallas Police Department's Central Operations Interactive Community Policing unit will be represented by Sergeant 'Ceci' Hinojo and ICP officers assigned to the Vickery Place area. In addition, District 14 City Councilperson Veletta Forsythe Lill will join us for support and conversation about the crime topic and public safety strategies.

September's meeting attempted to recognize the growing perception and reality of a rising crime issue within our city and neighborhood and invited DPD's Central Ops Deputy Chief D V Garcia and Code Compliance Department Director Kathleen Davis to listen and address questions of Vickery Place residents. The meeting was a good start to building relationship with our leaders and with each other in what must always be a collaborative effort to stall and control crime issues here and in any community.

Since that autumn meeting, residents of Vickery Place have mobilized to find solutions and participate in crime prevention and alerts by meeting and conversing on e-mail as well as talking to immediate neighbors. Nearby neighbors of the Lower Greenville Neighborhood Association have assembled an Extended Neighborhood Patrol plan in response to violent activity in the last months of 2003.

For the year 2004, VPNA will readily focus attention and time to crime prevention and solutions through conversation, participation, and activism. The January meeting is a perfect kick-off to the year with an attempt to continue the conversation with our ICP officers and participate in keeping Vickery Place a wonderful place to live.

### ***Bulky Trash/Basura Abultado***

Don't Set Out Trash Before:  
Thursday, Jan. 8th

Pick Up Week:  
Jan. 12th - 16th



## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings and best wishes for 2004! Vickery Place Neighborhood Association is planning a great year in our historic suburb of Dallas.

You may know that Central Expressway was once a railroad and that MacMillan had a trolley line traversing north and south. And that Vickery Towers sits upon the site of the original esteemed girls school, Hockaday, and that the surrounding homes are generally presumed to have been housing for teachers. You may also recall when Vickery Place and much of the surrounding neighborhoods were a mecca for a bohemian, organic sort of living, bringing retail neighbors to the area like Bluebonnet Café then, Whole Foods, not least to mention the night-life. As the "M-Streets" to our north gained in the prosperity of conscientious urban renewers, the four-square and arts and crafts bungalow became the moderate alternative; and almost a century after early 20<sup>th</sup> century developers first broke ground out away from the 'city' of Dallas, Vickery Place reflects a diversity of culture and architecture, grass-roots activism and significant historic stature in a very urban and exciting place and time.

As cycles go in economies and in living in community with one another, the hot topic going into 2004 is Crime Prevention. And, the best Crime Prevention is knowing one another and knowing our public safety team and working in concert with vision and responsibility for our neighborhood. The kick-off topic of our General Meeting in January is to continue conversation about controlling the crime issues that affect us here in Vickery Place. Ideally, all of us will find opportunities throughout the year to continue talking and sharing successes with one another, through updates at General Meetings or through the Crime Committee.

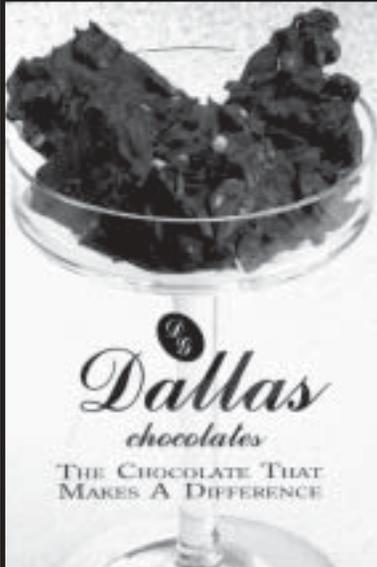
Through the challenges of crime prevention, another hot topic for VPNA might be addressed naturally; and, that topic is the never-ending task to entice and draw more participation in conversation and activity in our neighborhood beyond abating the worries of crime. VPNA ended 2003 under the excellent leadership of Morris Smart and a legacy of balancing social activity with business activity. The 2004 plan is to continue to create opportunities for fun while taking care of neighborhood business. We need your ideas and your self to do this, even if just attending an event.

Other committees of the association that welcome new contributors and ongoing resident participation are: the Newsletter, Website & Advertising Committee, the Education Committee, the Urban Design & Planning Committee, the Beautification Committee, the Code Compliance Committee, and the ad hoc Conservation (Conservation District Ordinance) Committee.

Lastly and hardly leastly, I'd like to offer special thanks to our departing board members of 2003. Their attention to details, vision and stick-to-it-iveness throughout the year is what made our yearly events a success; such as, preparing the neighborhood for the St Pat's street party and the National Night Out block party, or the bounty of advertising each month to sustain the newsletter. Many thanks to Morris Smart, Shelia Huffman, Amy Brillhart, Candy Hearne and Bruce Thomas.

See you January 8 and throughout the year!

~ Leslie Farrell



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## MEET THE BOARD, PRESIDENT LESLIE FARRELL

Leslie Farrell is a life-long Dallas resident who doesn't know any strangers. She has always thought history and perspective are important to understand if one ever hopes to improve 'the wheel' instead of 'reinventing' it; and, she considers herself a Populist in the most romantic sense: championing that every voice is heard and that every ear is given equal information in order to decide for one's self what is best; and from that point, work on consensus.

Leslie has served in 2003 on the board of VPNA and is looking forward to serving in 2004. She enjoys using DART, riding her bicycle whenever possible and getting 50mpg average from her Honda Hybrid. Live music, conversation with neighbors and friends over a beer and a cook-out, movies and travel are things she would like to experience more of, including making progress on improving their Vickery Place house. She enjoys writing, activism for neighborhood concerns and ecumenical dialogue.

Leslie grew up in northwest Dallas eating Ashburn's ice cream and Goff's hamburgers, attended high school in Pilot Point, college in Lubbock, and finally found Dallas-nirvana, east of the Katy Trail.



Leslie and partner, Angi, moved to Goodwin Ave. the Spring of '99. Sharing the household is their Greyhound Mix, Chloe.

## TOASTED COCONUT MUFFINS

- 1 ½ cups all purpose flour
- 1 cup of sweetened shredded coconut, toasted
- ½ cup sugar
- 1/3 cup chopped toasted almonds
- 1 ½ tsp baking powder
- ¾ tsp orange zest
- ½ tsp baking soda
- ¼ tsp salt
- ¾ cup canned unsweetened coconut milk
- 2 large eggs
- ¼ (or ½ a stick) unsalted butter, melted
- 1 tsp vanilla extract



Preheat oven to 400 F. Butter 12 muffins cups, or muffin pan. Combine flour, toasted coconut, sugar, almonds, baking powder, orange peel or zest, baking soda, and salt in a large bowl. In a separate medium bowl, whisk together coconut milk, eggs, butter and vanilla extract. Add egg mixture to flour mixture and stir to combine. If mixture is too dry, add a little more coconut milk.

Divide batter among prepared muffins cups. Bake until toothpick inserted in the middle comes out clean, approximately 15 minutes. Turn out onto rack to cool. After cooling, you can place them in a ziplock bag and freeze them if needed. ~ Sandi Holmes-Schwedler

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## WINTER GARDEN CHORES

- Drain garden hoses, wind them and place them in storage. Water left in the hose can freeze and cause it to split.
- Take inventory of your gardening tools. Are they rusted or dull? Take the rust off with steel wool, and then oil them. The oil will help prevent further rust.
- Remove potting soil from unused clay pots, wash them out and store them in the garage, shed or backporch. Some terracotta pots can crack in the freezing temps.
- Think about planting a new flower bed or herb garden. Herb gardens love sunny locations and many herbs are perennials, so you won't have to replant them each year. Herb gardens can be anything from a raised bed to a collection of pots. Plant rosemary, thyme, basil, cilantro, dill or anything you love to cook with.
- If you are going to start a new garden, in the ground, you can start turning the soil now so it'll be ready for planting in the spring. Be sure and add at least 3 inches of organic compost. Organic matter help break up the clay soil we have in our area and it adds nutrients to the soil.
- Winter time is also a great time to plant, or transplant, trees and shrubs. Many nurseries have trees on sale now, so check the papers and get a great deal on a tree that'll last for many years to come.
- Do you have a dark shady spot where nothing will grow? How about a place on the west side of your house that gets baked by the sun? Now is the time to do a little research to find out the best type of plant that is perfect for that troublesome spot in your yard. A great book is *Native Texas Plants* by Sally & Andy Wasowski. This book has beautiful color images and information for every kind of native plant for every type of situation. Good thing to buy with that bookstore gift certificate you got for Christmas!
- Winter is also the perfect time to judiciously prune trees, shrubs and rose bushes.

Feel free to email me with your questions about gardening or suggestions on what you'd like to see in this column in the future.

Happy Gardening,  
Sandi Holmes-Schwedler  
[sandimholmes@yahoo.com](mailto:sandimholmes@yahoo.com)



### 2004 Board of Directors

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*Long time Vickery Place resident,  
Joe Mosley, passed away at home on  
November 23, 2003. He will be missed  
by his many friends, his family  
and his neighbors.*