

BINGO NIGHT

Date: Thursday, Feb. 12th
Time: 7:00 PM
Place: Vickery Towers at Belmont & Greenville

FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING SET TO TRIBUTE VICKERY TOWERS RESIDENTS, "THE GREATEST GENERATION!"

~ Leslie Farrell

VPNA's February general meeting is set to pay tribute to our neighbors at Vickery Towers. Vickery Towers has been a long-time good neighbor to Vickery Place and it's time to say 'thank you'.

February's general meeting is all about having fun and getting to know one another. One of Vickery Towers most popular social activities is Bingo and VPNA would like to host a Bingo night with prizes to show appreciation.

When you think about it, one of the most important parts of community conversation is in having a place to meet. Historic buildings all along the original colonies commemorate meeting houses and congregational buildings for their historic importance in bringing people into one place to debate and converse and agree to important decisions in the community. Vickery Towers is just such our meeting place!



Each month, Vickery Towers offers to VPNA space, beverages, comfortable seating as well as PA equipment when needed, slide show projection screens when needed, even a popcorn trolley for the National Night Out Block Party complete with oil and corn.

Don't forget, that Vickery Towers residents spend a huge amount of money at the local Kroger supermarket, with many

of them allotting a percentage to the VPNA fund through their Kroger cards. This regular and reliable donation helps fund our newsletter and other events through the year.

Plan to attend February's VPNA General Meeting on **February 12, 2004, at 7pm**. Bring treats to share if you'd like or just good conversation and your bingo hat!

HAPPY 75TH TO WOODROW WILSON HIGH SCHOOL

This year mark's the 75th Anniversary of Woodrow Wilson High School opening its doors to students. On Saturday March 6th, alumni, faculty, and students plan to celebrate in Woodrow style! The school, located in East Dallas at 100 S. Glasgow, will be open throughout the day; festivities begin with a parade arriving at school around 10:00 a.m., followed by a special program inducting new members of the Woodrow Wilson Hall of Fame. Entertainment will be provided by students in the Variations vocal ensemble, the Jazz Band and the Ballet Folklorico. The student council will host class gatherings in various rooms to share Woodrow memories. To find out more, call 972-502-4400, or visit www.wildcats.org and click "alumni".

Bulky Trash/Basura Abultado

Don't Set Out Trash Before:
 Thursday, Feb. 5th

Pick Up Week:
 Feb. 9th - 13th



CRIME STATS: NOVEMBER - DECEMBER

CRIME	DATE	ADDRESS
Burglary	11/16/03	52XX Vickery
Burglary	11/27/03	52XX Vickery
Theft	11/01/03	51XX Vickery
Vandal	10/27/03	51XX Vickery
Vandal	11/26/03	54XX Vickery
Robbery	11/26/03	56XX Goodwin
AG Assault	11/01/03	56XX Goodwin
Burglary	11/15/03	56XX Vickery
Burglary	12/02/03	52XX Vickery
Theft	12/01/03	52XX Goodwin
Theft	12/07/03	52XX Goodwin
Auto Theft	12/29/03	51XX Goodwin
Theft	12/15/03	55XX Goodwin
Theft	12/26/03	56XX Goodwin
Theft	12/12/03	56XX Vickery
Theft	12/14/03	56XX Vickery
Auto Theft	12/02/03	55XX Miller
Runaway	12/03/03	55XX Willis
Runaway	12/04/03	55XX Willis
Auto Theft	12/06/03	54xx Bonita
Theft	12/07/03	53XX Richard
Other Aslt	12/12/03	51XX Willis
Other Aslt	12/12/03	53XX Willis
Vandal	12/13/03	53XX Richard
Vandal	12/13/03	53XX Richard
Robbery	12/13/03	28XX Henderson
Theft	12/13/03	51XX Richard
Theft	12/15/03	54XX Vickery
Theft	12/16/03	53XX Miller
Burglary	12/17/03	54XX Bonita
Auto Theft	12/18/03	52XX Miller
Auto Theft	12/18/03	51XX Richard
Theft	12/19/03	52XX Miller
Auto Theft	12/19/03	52XX Bonita
Vandal	12/22/03	55XX Richard
Other	12/26/03	56XX Willis
Other Aslt	12/27/03	54XX Belmont
Auto Theft	12/29/03	53XX Miller
Theft	12/30/03	52XX Miller

JANUARY GENERAL MEETING WELL ATTENDED AND INFORMATIVE - Chief's meeting with all Central Ops neighborhoods insightful

The VPNA January General Meeting was a good continuation of conversation about crime in the area and what we all think about it.

In attendance, along with twenty to thirty Vickery Place residents, were Councilmember Veletta Forsythe Lill of District 14, Deputy Chief 'Danny' Garcia of Dallas Police Department's Central Operations Division, and Sergeant 'Ceci' Hinojo of Central Ops Interactive Community Policing (ICP) with Officer James Johnson. Other guests to help field questions and offer perspectives were Sergeants Beck and Dwyer, and Greenland Hills Neighborhood leader, Angela Hunt.

Our public safety professionals continued to reinforce that making smart decisions, knowing one another, and alerting the police department of suspicious activity by calling 911 are our best bets to facing down any notion of rising crime.

When asked who in the audience had experienced crime in the last year, quite a few hands rose to the count. Although many Vickery Place residents have been slapped by the crime wave of 2003, crime statistics for one of the busiest Dallas police divisions, Central Operations, has reflected a reduction in crime activity. Indeed, the ending months of 2003 commanded some violent headlines, but overall, crime activities under Central Ops has been managed in contrast to other divisions in the city. Indeed, when one has been victimized by a crime, one's personal crime rate has gone up no matter what anyone says. When one resident offered that he would pay more in taxes if it assured his home safe from burglary, and one resident vocalized discontent with the tax rate in relation to the crime rate, Councilmember Lill suggested comparing tax rates with other cities to see how Dallas compares per \$100. Lill suggested that the kind of expectations citizens have for public safety require a much higher commitment than they've been historically willing to fund. The police department of Dallas only receives a fraction of what is collected on the values of our properties.

To offer solutions to the citizens of the neighborhoods patrolled by Central Operations, Chief Garcia welcomed all to a meeting he and his staff hosted at East Dallas Christian Church on January 15. Representatives of the neighborhoods were able to sit and

discuss ongoing issues with Interactive Community Policing (ICP) officers and bring attention to concerns that seem to be chronic or stagnant in a bureaucratic mire. Garcia's team sketched the pertinent issues brought to discussion and then shared them with the larger group. Our ICP officers Hunt and Johnson made professional commitments to follow-up and offer feedback to residents about specific concerns.

Vickery Place, on the whole, is doing fairly well as relates to crime issues. Concerns such as gunfire, speeding, unsecured vacant properties, and burglaries were discussed. Other neighborhoods seemed to have these issues along with heinous code violations, extreme squalid living situations that were more social concerns than violations, drug dealing, and prostitution.

The best proscriptive offered at both gatherings were to be involved with one another, look out for one another, turn on porch lights, turn on yard lights, trim up alleyways and call 911 for any report, even if seemingly innocuous. Small porch items or decorative seasonal items stolen from one neighborhood are often found for sale as bargains in another. The 911 call for this sort of event allows the division to assess a pattern developing. Get to know your neighboring pawn shops; more often than not, stolen property can be found at these stores. If you've marked your property with an identifying number, such as a drivers license, or have the serial number of a stolen item, you can regain the stolen property if found.

The January General Meeting concluded with personal conversations afterward with each other and police officers. Interest and conversation has begun about the Dallas Police Department's Volunteers In Patrol program where volunteers offer time and eyes to patrol the neighborhood and make contact with 911 as needed. For information regarding the Volunteers In Patrol program, email info@vpna.org or contact the ICP unit of Central Operations for an application, 214.670.4413. ~ Leslie Farrell

BE PREPARED: ANNUAL ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION AND VPNA:

Saturday, March 13, 2004 is the date for this year's annual Lower Greenville St. Patrick's Day Celebration, when thousands of party-goers will invade Lower Greenville (and parts of VPNA). The resulting impact to the neighborhoods is high traffic, parking congestion, litter, and noise.



VPNA has a voice though through the St. Patrick's Day Task Force Committee. This year, Richard Avenue resident and Board Member Burton Brillhart will represent VPNA on the St. Patrick's Day Task Force Committee. The Committee will meet on February 12th to discuss this year's event and to make final plans for dealing with the large traffic and parking problem.

As in past years, VPNA will distribute the City's official map of the event, explaining the traffic management system that will be implemented with the March VPNA Newsletter. Last year's map is included in this month's edition as a guide. The City will be providing temporary No-Parking signs that must be placed by VPNA.

Burton and Amy Brillhart will be hosting a sign building party on **Wednesday, March 10, at 5343 Richard Ave., starting at 5:00 p.m. ALL VPNA RESIDENTS ARE INVITED TO COME HELP BUILD THE SIGNS!** We have almost 200 signs to assemble so please bring your gloves and a hammer. Pizza and drinks will be provided to all volunteers. More on this important event at the March General Meeting and in March's Newsletter.



DISCOVER DALLAS, DISCOVER VICKERY PLACE!

~ Beth Bentley, Vickery Place resident

As many of you know, the Discover Dallas Project, sponsored by Preservation Dallas, is a Citywide architectural survey documenting houses built prior to 1965, and it is currently underway here in Vickery Place. Our neighborhood was primarily developed in the teens and early 20's, and is rich in architectural style and history.

Did you know that Richard Street was named after the developer's (George Works) son, 'Richard' Works? And that Vickery Blvd. was named after his wife, Lillian 'Vickery' Works? Did you know Mr. 'Miller' lived in the neighborhood? Do you know who started Blue Cross Blue Shield health insurance, was Superintendent of Dallas Schools, and a high school was named in his honor? It was Justin Kimball, and he lived right here in our neighborhood! Did you know we have our very own C.D. Hutsell (well-known local architect) home in our neighborhood? Which house is the oldest in the neighborhood? Do you live in a Craftsman Bungalow or a Prairie style home? What kind of architectural styles make up Vickery Place?

These are the kinds of things you will learn when you partake in the Discover Dallas project. To date, volunteers have done a visual survey of approximately 600+ homes (there are 900+ homes that were built prior to 1965), have digitally photographed all of the homes, and have done property research (when the home was built, who the primary owner was/is, significant style, person, or occurrence) for 20+ homes—because this neighborhood is so large, we will only be researching 10% of the properties. 'Thank You' to all who have contributed their time, energy, and resources thus far!

I have lived in the neighborhood for 15 years and through this project, I am seeing houses I never noticed before and finding out all kinds of interesting facts relating to our neighborhood. We welcome all who are interested in history, architectural styles, or just finding out more about YOUR neighborhood. No experience necessary, just eyes, ears, feet, and a desire to Discover Vickery Place! Call me, 214-821-0821 to find out more, or email info@vpna.org.



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**APARTMENT/RETAIL DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED FOR LOWER GREENVILLE
FIRSTWORTHING MAKES PRESENTATION ON \$22 MILLION PROJECT**

~ Avi Adelman, www.barkingdogs.org.

January 23, 2004 - excerpted from www.barkingdogs.org

Neighborhood residents had their first look at a proposed \$22 million residential / commercial development on Lower Greenville at the Joint Neighborhood Meeting last evening at The Arcadia.

FirstWorthing asked for this joint meeting so they could present their plans and begin the community input process with area residents. The meeting was sponsored by Belmont NA and Lowest Greenville NA. Our thanks to The Arcadia Theatre for hosting this event.

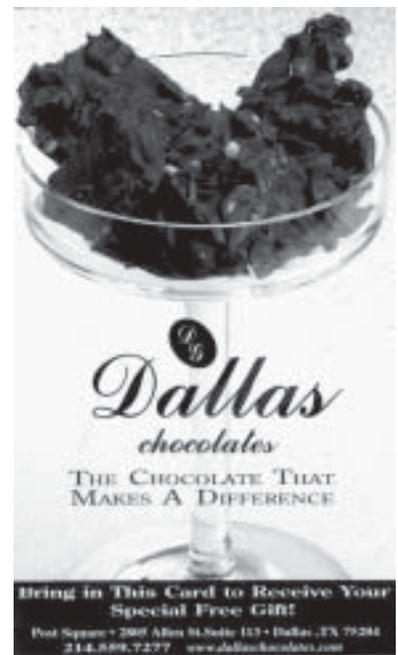
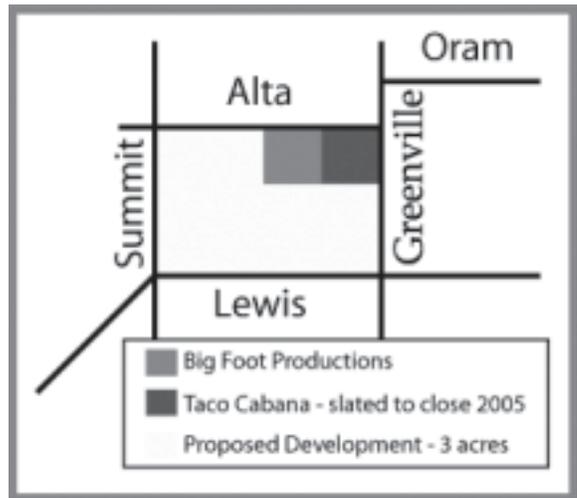
Slated to be built on three acres of land owned or occupied by Kiser Air Conditioning and Heating, along with contiguous properties, the 220-250 unit apartments will be the first major development on Greenville in nearly 50 years, by some estimates.

The development will be built on the west side of Greenville on the land surrounded by Summit, Greenville, Alta and Lewis. It does not include land currently occupied by Taco Cabana or Big Foot Productions (occupying the former Masonic lodge building).

The Taco Cabana is reportedly going to close down in 2005 since it does not meet the sales goals set by the company, according to BD's sources. At that time, it will converted to a Mediteranean-style restaurant. This property and the parking lot next to World Wide Foods across the street are owned by Shula Netzer and managed by Andres Real Estate.

Contracts on all land parcels are pending a review and approval by the City's Plan Commission and City Council, which may not happen until May or June. This meeting was the first of many public meetings that will be needed in order to bring a final plan to the Council.

The issues that are yet to be decided - among many others - are density, infrastructure, traffic and height of the buildings various faces. As was noted at the meeting, the devil is in the details and the process is not over.



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DALLAS POLICE DEPARTMENT'S VOLUNTEERS IN PATROL, ONE SOLUTION IN CRIME PREVENTION

~ *Leslie Farrell*

As all Dallas residents have realized in the past six months of crime headlines and talk of rising crime statistics, it's become obvious that part of the prevention is making smart choices by not making one's self a crime target.

Another prevention tool is in getting to know your neighbors and your neighborhood better. Another tool is in building relationships with our Public Safety team through the Volunteers in Patrol (VIP) program.

Volunteers in Patrol is a non-confrontational neighborhood patrol program designed to reduce crime through the increased cooperation between citizens and police. Volunteers donate time to patrol the neighborhood by driving their own vehicles. The volunteers are trained by the Dallas Police Department (DPD) to observe, recognize and report suspicious and criminal activity in their neighborhood.

There are some requirements and procedures for an individual to participate in the VIP program but the main requirement is for an interest from residents to participate in a crime prevention solution.

Requirements

Requirements of the VIP program include, that a group must extend from an organized crime watch or homeowners association; that a minimum of two volunteers participate; and, that individuals meet requirements as follows:

- Applicant must be at least 21 years of age;
- Applicant must be in good health;
- Applicant must have a valid drivers license;
- Applicant must have no criminal record (no A or B misdemeanors within the past two years and no felony convictions).

Procedures

Procedures to get the VIP program underway include:

1. Complete VIP application, including copy of drivers license and social security card and submit to the DPD Interactive Community Policing (ICP) unit;
2. Background and driver's check performed on each applicant;
3. VIP training program is scheduled within approximately two months;
4. VIP training is held for a total of 7 hours over a period of three evenings at the substation with one class held downtown at the 911 communications headquarters;
5. Patrol can begin when at least 2 volunteers have graduated from the training (volunteers must attend all classes to graduate) and DPD recommends volunteers patrol in pairs;
6. A written set of bylaws and procedures is recommended so that patrollers will have a clear understanding of their responsibilities;
7. A coordinator should be designated to organize schedules, contact patrollers, maintain equipment and keep a patrol log, preferably on a computer for easier sharing of info;
8. To be most effective, patrollers should have a cellular telephone to communicate with other neighbors and the police;
9. DPD recommends that magnetic signs be posted on the vehicle while patrolling to let potential criminals know that your neighborhood is patrolled as well as to alert neighbors who might otherwise report a suspicious, slow-moving vehicle in the area.

Get Started

To get started forming a VIP group, make contact with your neighborhood association or your ICP officers. Get in touch with other VIP groups in the area to hear how they do it and what has worked for them. Send an email to info@vpna.org for more info, or call 214.967.5134 and leave a message.

**MEET THE BOARD - ERIC LEBLANC,
VPNA VICE PRESIDENT**

Tommie and I moved to the neighborhood in 1999. We just love everything about the neighborhood and are now sworn life long city folks!

We recently had our first child, he is now nine months old and is determined for us to carry him forever. We hope he starts walking soon before our backs give out.

One of my main passions is for the neighborhood to improve it's look while still maintaining it's charm. In pursuit of this vision Tommie and I have spent a great deal of time walking from door to door collecting signatures for our Conservation District. I hope this endeavor along with other efforts around Code Enforcement and Neighborhood Watch will improve our enjoyment of the neighborhood.

Outside of work and neighborhood activities I enjoy traveling, and spending time with my family.



Eric and his son, Ethan



Thanks to Lem.net for hosting www.VPNA.org



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COMMON COURTESIES FOR PET OWNERS

Animals

Some courtesies have gone by the wayside and have become city ordinances as Dallas becomes more densely populated, including Vickery Place. One topic of courtesy regards our animals.

The following is information found at the city website: http://www.dallascityhall.org/dallas/eng/html/animal_control.html.

Animal Noise

Noise made by any animal is considered unreasonable if it continues for more than 15 minutes or exceeds the sound pressure level allowed in a residential district. A person who is disturbed by an animal who unreasonably barks, howls, crows, or makes other unreasonable noise may file a disturbance complaint with Animal Control, who will mail a notice to the owner. If the disturbance continues, the complainant may file a civil complaint with the City Attorney's Office at 2014 Main Street, Room 206, or call (214) 670-4439.

Animal in your Yard

A resident who finds an animal on their property may confine the animal in a humane manner. The resident must notify Animal Control within 72 hours by calling City Services Dispatch at 3-1-1 when dialing from inside the city limits, or (214) 670-5111 when dialing from outside the city limits, to have the animal impounded. The impounded animal must be claimed within three days, after which it may be adopted, sold, or euthanized. Traps designed to harm or kill an animal are forbidden, unless the trap is designed to kill common rodents and is not placed where other domestic animals may be endangered.

Number of Animals

Only four dogs, cats, or any combination of dogs or cats are allowed on the premises of a dwelling unit that shares a common wall with another dwelling unit. The City does not limit the number of pets in detached houses.

Dog or Cat Registration

The owner or harbinger of a dog or cat must have the animal vaccinated annually for rabies, present a certificate of vaccination, and pay an annual registration fee to Animal Control to obtain a registration tag for the animal. For more information, call PetData at (214) 821-3400 .

Vicious Dog

Dangerous dogs fall under provisions of state law as well as city ordinance. The Texas Health and Safety Code defines a dangerous dog as one who, in a place other than a dog's enclosure, makes an unprovoked attack that causes bodily injury, or causes a reasonable person to believe that the dog will attack. In addition to the normal requirements for dog ownership, the owner or harbinger of a dangerous dog must register the dog as a dangerous dog, restrain the dog at all times on a leash or in a secure enclosure, and obtain liability insurance of at least \$100,000.

Pooper Scooper Law

Chapter 7 of the Dallas City Ordinance, Section 7-21.2 requires the owner, harbinger, or a person having care, custody, or control of a dog, to remove in an immediate, and sanitary manner, any feces created by their dog on public property, or any private property not owned, leased, or controlled by them. It further requires those individuals to have in their possession a device for the safe and sanitary removal and disposal of the dogs feces. Violators may be reported to city services dispatch 3-1-1 and are subject to citation, and possible fine if observed by city officers at any time.



Howard Garrett's BASIC ORGANIC PROGRAM 2004

- 1: STOP USING ALL SYNTHETIC FERTILIZERS AND PESTICIDES.
- 2: BUILD SOIL HEALTH WITH ORGANIC PRODUCTS, COMPOSTING AND MULCHING.
- 3: USE NATIVE AND WELL-ADAPTED PLANTS

FERTILIZING – Broadcast organic fertilizer 2-3 times per year. Foliar feed all plants during the growing season, at least monthly with compost tea or Garrett Juice. Add volcanic rock such as lava sand at 40-80 lbs./1,000 sq. ft. Use dry molasses and humate the first few years. The rate can vary from 50 lbs/acre to 200 lbs/acre. Dry molasses can be used by itself as high as 10 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft.

MULCHING - Mulch all shrubs, trees ground cover, and food crops with 2-5" of shredded native tree trimmings to protect the soil from sunlight, wind and rain, inhibit weed germination, decrease watering needs and mediate soil temperature. Native cedar is the best choice. Other natural mulches can be used but avoid Bermudagrass hay because of herbicide residue.

WATERING – Water only as needed. The organic program reduces the frequency and volume needed. Water deeply and wait as long as possible between watering. Add a tablespoon of apple cider vinegar per gallon when watering pots. Use 1 ounce of liquid humate in acid soils.

MOWING – Frequency of mowing varies with grass varieties. Mulch clippings into the lawn to return nutrients and organic matter to the soil. Put occasional excess clippings in compost pile. Don't ever let clippings leave the site. Do not use line trimmers around shrubs and trees. Buffalograss lawns need less mowing than any grass.

PRUNING - Remove dead, diseased and conflicting limbs. Do not over prune. Do not make flush cuts. Leave the branch collars intact. Do not paint cuts except on red oaks and live oaks in oak-wilt areas when spring pruning can't be avoided. Remember that pruning cuts hurt trees. Pruning is done for your benefit, not for the benefit of the trees. For more details see www.dirtdoctor.com.

AVOID SYNTHETIC HERBICIDES, such as pre-emergents, broadleaf treatments, soil sterilants and especially the SU (sulfonyleurea) herbicides such as Manage and Oust. Spray broadleaf weeds as a last resort with full strength vinegar with 2 oz. orange oil and 1 teaspoon of liquid soap or remove weeds by hand. Commercial products are now available.

By the way, Roundup is *not* acceptable in an organic program.

AVOID ALL PYRETHRUM PRODUCTS, ESPECIALLY THOSE CONTAINING PIPERNYL BUTOXIDE (PBO), PETROLEUM DISTILLATES AND OTHER CONTAMINANTS.

To learn more about Howard and organic gardening, visit www.dirtdoctor.com or listen to Howard on the radio:

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Saturdays 11:00-Noon Sundays 8:00-Noon

Happy Gardening,
Sandi

*I'll get back to the Yard of the Month
for the March newsletter*



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