



Vickery Place Neighborhood NEWS

GREENVILLE-BELMONT-HENDERSON-CENTRAL-GOODWIN

P.O. BOX 720192 DALLAS, TEXAS 75372 VOICEMAIL: (214) 967-5134 WWW.VPNA.ORG



JUNE BBQ & NATION NIGHT OUT PLANNING MEEING

Date: Thursday, June 10th

Time: 7:00-9:00 PM

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

JUNE NEIGHBORHOOD COOKOUT

Join your neighbors for an informal cookout with our friends at Vickery Towers! Hamburgers and hot dogs will fuel our conversation in June. We'll talk about the plans for August's National Night Out (NNO) neighborhood block party scheduled for Tuesday, 08/03/04.



NNO events are observed

around the country in August to emphasize how neighborhood communities get together and positively impact crime prevention. By getting to know your neighbors and forming communication networks, we can keep Vickery Place neighborhood a great place to live.

For this June picnic, the Vickery Place Neighborhood Association will buy the food and the association board will be the cooks. You bring some great ideas! You'll help us decide the "menu" for August.

VPNA is known throughout Dallas for the fabulous block party we throw for NNO! In previous years we have brought out live music, tasty food from local restaurants, nifty raffle prizes from local merchants, city and police representatives, rides and attractions for the kids, etc. We need your ideas and energy to live up to previous years' events. What has been your favorite part of year's past? If you are a new or a long time resident of the neighborhood, this is a great way to meet your neighbors and make this YOUR neighborhood.

Vickery Towers is located on the corner of Belmont and Greenville. See you for dinner at **7:00pm on Thursday, June 10, 2004!**

JULY WINE-TASTING

Come join us for a wine tasting event at our July meeting and mingle with your neighbors while tasting some wonderful wines.

The meeting will be held at The Liquor Shoppe located at 5400 E. Mockingbird Lane (in between Premier Video and Whole Earth Provision Co.), on Thursday, July 8th.

Hope to see you there!



Bulky Trash/Basura Abultado

Don't Set Out Trash Before:

Thursday, June 10th

Pick Up Week:

June 14th - 18th



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CRIME STATS

<u>CRIME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
Robbery	2/01/04	53XX Goodwin
Burglary	1/31/04	50XX Goodwin
Theft	4/02/04	53XX Vickery
Theft	4/10/04	56XX Goodwin
Theft	4/27/04	56XX Goodwin
Other Assault	4/06/04	56XX Goodwin
Ag Assault	4/03/04	51XX Miller
Burglary	4/19/04	54XX Belmont
Burglary	4/26/04	54XX Belmont
Burglary	4/09/04	54XX Bonita
Burglary	4/22/04	54XX Bonita
Burglary	4/26/04	54XX Bonita
Burglary	4/21/04	53XX Miller
Burglary	4/27/04	54XX Miller
Theft	4/21/04	54XX Bonita
Theft	4/16/04	51XX Richard
Theft	4/25/04	51XX Richard
Auto Theft	4/25/04	53XX Miller
Auto Theft	4/04/04	51XX Willis
Other Assault	4/19/04	52XX Richard
Other Assault	4/30/04	52XX Richard
Vandal	4/18/04	52XX Bonita
Vandal	4/21/04	52XX Richard
Other Assault	4/23/04	55XX Vickery
Fraud	11/23/03	56XX Belmont
Vandal	4/23/04	56XX Richard
Other Assault	4/25/04	56XX Belmont
Theft	4/15/04	55XX Miller

THREE C'S ALWAYS TOPICAL: CRIME, CODE & CONSERVATION

~ *Leslie Farrell*

May's VPNA General Meeting was a nice turnout of folks along with special guests: Dallas Police Deputy Chief Zackary Belton, Department of Code Compliance District Manager Glenn Hollaway, our true-blue Interactive Community Policing (ICP) Officers J T Johnson and Richard Hunt, Preservation Dallas activist and neighbor, Beth Bentley and VPNA conservation district committee representative and VPNA board member Eric LeBlanc.

Code

Mr Hollaway started off the evening discussing the distinctions between structural issues, like peeling paint or broken windows, and zoning and premise issues, like illegal fences, overgrown weeds or litter. When a structure or property is undergoing renovation or remodeling, the project should be registered with a building permit. Any complaints of a project under a building permit are then handled by the building permit staff and NOT by Code Compliance. If a project is not enlisted with a building permit, then the complaint is then investigated by Code Compliance.

Hollaway cited that Code Compliance area District 4 drew \$97,000 in citations just in the month of February. Clearly, Code Compliance has been busy in the last year re-emphasizing Code standards, including bulky trash placement. **Complaints to Code Compliance can be made through 311 and on-line at www.dallascityhall.com.** Mr Hollaway offered his business card for those present at the meeting.

Questions from the attendees for Mr Hollaway included issues like non-compliance of ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) sidewalk access for wheelchairs along Greenville Avenue, namely at Lewis St, and at Belmont and Ross, which are issues managed by the City's Public Works department; and, marginal 'junk' cars, which are in compliance even if movable one foot forward or backward.

Any concerns about graffiti should be pursued through Code Compliance. Hollaway instructed citizens NOT to paint over markings themselves as there is a special paint used by the city. A citizen painting over a graffiti marking would then be inculcated with defacing property just as the 'tagger' had done to begin with.

Crime

Hollaway echoed the constant relationship of crime prevention with good code compliance and handed discussion over to Central Operations ICP Officer J T Johnson.

Officer Johnson and Hunt reported that a perpetrator of many violations in the area had been arrested and was a resident of the neighborhood with a drug problem. (*"Three C's" continues on page 3.*)

From **Vickery Towers**

Congratulations!
To Vickery Towers Resident
Terry Edmonson
For being chosen for
the 2004 Community Service Award
presented by The City of Dallas!

Terry has worked with Heartland Hospice and has spearheaded the Camp Comfort program.

Terry proves that Seniors are TOO busy to work!!

Transcribed from Vickery Times Newsletter/ Calendar May 2004 - May 21, 2004 LFarrell.

("Three C's", continued from page 2.)

Deputy Chief Belton, who heads the Crimes Against Persons unit, was impressed with the Vickery Place neighborhood turnout of the meeting and assured that **the message to the new chief, David Kunkle, will be to continue to build relationships with the neighborhoods through community policing.**

Conservation

Beth Bentley and Eric LeBlanc, along with Leslie Farrell, spoke of current status of the Conservation campaign to gain a Conservation District (CD) ordinance for Vickery Place. **The neighborhood has been canvassed in the last couple of years for signatures of support to pursue a CD.** The CD committee is regaining footing after an understanding that the application was in line to begin public meetings but was found not to be officially received. Also, City Planning requirements have been revised as pursuit of the Conservation District ordinance has become one of the hottest citizen declarations around. Watch for updates on conservation as they become available.

MEET THE BOARD – KRIS STARBIRD



Kris Starbird is currently serving on the board as Secretary. Kris is an 8 year resident of Dallas and relocated here from San Antonio back in 1995. Her childhood years were spent in SA, where she worked as a lifeguard during summers. Kris attended San Antonio College, where she received her AAS in Paralegal Studies and The University of Texas at San Antonio.

She and her husband, Arden (who relocated to Dallas from Alaska in 1998) moved to Vickery Place in the summer of 2002. Kris has been employed with the law firm of Jenkins & Gilchrist since 1998. Arden is the Records Supervisor at a competing law firm, Haynes and Boone. Also sharing their home is Alain, Tristan and Morgan (the Australian Cattle Dogs) and the felines, Nick, Pandora, Sam and Colette.

In her free time, her passions are spending time with her animals, photography, reading, mountain biking, and traveling. Her favorite vacations are time spent in the mountains biking downhill.

COMPUTER RECYCLING

~ *Sandi Holmes*

If you're like a lot of Americans, you have a piece or two of computer equipment sitting around your house that no longer works. Maybe it's a monitor that has given out or a CPU that is too slow to be of use to you.

What do you do with it? Don't put it in the trash! Be responsible for the things that go in our landfills and do the right thing...recycle your computers. There are several companies in town (within 4 miles from here) that will take your computer parts, smash them and separate the plastics, glass, lead etc to dispose of them properly. It's simple, quick and free. Here's a partial list of those companies.

- City Industries, Inc. – 214 421-5406 @ 1910 Wall St. Dallas
- Freedman Metals, Inc. – 214 747-6525 @ 1137 Conveyor Ln. #118 Dallas
- Hobi International, Inc. – 214 951-0143 @ 7601 Ambassador Row #101 Dallas

The Landfill Reality

Lead, mercury, cadmium, barium and phosphorous are all toxins that are constantly poured into landfills. These toxins affect our environment on every scale. Please remember these toxins affect human beings, wildlife and our generations to come.

Did you know?

- 3.2 million tons is the amount of PC equipment currently in landfills.
- 150 million: minimum number of personal computers that will be buried in U.S. landfills by 2005, according to a study by Carnegie Mellon University.
- Last year more than 180 million cell phones became obsolete and next year more than 500 million cell phones are predicted to become obsolete, according to Waste News magazine
- 20.6 million: minimum number of PC's that fell into disuse in 1998, according to the National Safety Council.
- 11%: percentage of those that were recycled.
- Computers can contain up to 6.3% lead.
- CRTs (computer monitors) contain lead to shield users from radiation and this lead could pose an environmental hazard when used CRTs are incinerated.
- The Environmental Protection Agency says lead can make up as much as 25% of the weight of monitors weighing anywhere from 15 to 90 pounds.
- 80% of all American trash and waste is landfilled.
- 2/3 of our landfills closed down in the last decade.
- Plastics and computer related scrap fill our landfills while contaminating our ground and water daily.
- Only 10% of our nation's plastics is actually being recycled.



KING RANCH CASSEROLE

~ Recipe from cookingcache.com

2 10 3/4 oz can Condensed cream of chicken soup
1 10 3/4 oz can condensed cream of mushroom (or celery) soup
1 can Ro-tel
1 large onion, diced
1 green pepper, diced
1/2 c. water from cooked chicken
4-6 chicken breasts, cooked and chopped into pieces
1 lb shredded cheddar cheese
1 pkg. tortillas

Saute onion and green pepper in oil. Add soups, Ro-tel and water. Add cooked chicken to the soup mixture. Cover bottom of 9x12" baking dish with butter then tear tortillas into quarters and cover the bottom of the baking dish. Put half the soup/chicken mixture over the tortillas. Sprinkle shredded cheese over the chicken mixture. Repeat the layers then bake the casserole at 375°F for 30 minutes. Enjoy!!!



Reminder - City of Dallas Water Restrictions

- No watering between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. from June 1 through Sept. 30.
- Irrigation systems installed after Jan. 1, 2002, must be equipped with working rain-sensing devices and freeze sensors.
- After Jan. 1, 2005, all irrigation systems must be equipped with working rain-sensing devices and freeze sensors.
- 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.

For more information, visit www.dallascityhall.com or call 214-670-3155. To report violations, call 311.

~ From Dallasnews.com, May 26, 2004

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THE 2004 RIDE OF SILENCE

~ *Kris Starbird*

We pulled up to White Rock Lake around 6:30 p.m, thinking we would be early this time. As we got there, we saw waves of bicyclists converging on the Lake. We unloaded our gear and headed for the starting point at Tee Pee Hill. We were greeted by the colorful sight of hundreds of bicyclist already queuing up for the ride. It was touching to see the solidarity of the biking community - roadies, mountain bikers, recumbents, cruisers, people who compete, who ride for a living, who ride just for pleasure. Every segment of the biking population was represented and the group spanned all age groups. There were even a few inline skaters. All of us were there for two reasons: 1. To honor anyone who has been killed while riding a bicycle and 2. in a attempt to make drivers aware of us and our right to share the road in safety.

The Ride of Silence was put together last year for the first time by Coach Chris Phelan. He did it to honor his friend, fallen cyclist Larry Schwartz, who was well known in the community. Larry was riding his bike when his head was struck by the mirror of a school bus causing his death. The ride was Chris Phelan's way to make sure that Larry and others like him were never forgotten, while at the same time making a statement about the dangers of motor vehicles to bicycle riders.

That first ride was put together in just 10 days, through word of mouth and emails. Chris Phelan had no idea whether anyone would even show up, but he was determined to ride, either by himself or with those who chose to join him. I don't think he expected 1,000 other bicyclists to show up, but they (we) did. The ride was a somber one, done slowly, like a funeral procession and in total silence. Even the weather cooperated, cool temperatures and overcast, almost as though the sky wanted to weep as well. There was some news coverage and we were lucky to have the Dallas Police Department directing traffic in support of our ride. Cars stopped on the road, probably wondering what could have possibly brought so many bicyclist together at one time. What they probably don't know is that we are a community bound together by our love of the sport and our support of each other. It was a historical day and one that would have an impact that probably no one saw coming.

Chris Phelan thought the Ride was a one time event. Little did he know. Due to overwhelming interest, the Ride was once again scheduled and is on track to be a yearly event.

This year's took place at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 19, 2004. The weather was much cheerier this year, sunny, warm and humid. Once again, the Dallas Police Department was there to support us and guarantee our safety. This time, however, all the news crews were there to witness what was an even more monumental event than last year's ride. This year, not only bicyclists from Dallas were riding, but rides were being held in over 35 cities all over the United States and in Canada. Community. It was asked that the riders wear either a black armband (for mourning) or a red one (to show that they had either been hit by a vehicle while riding or harassed by a driver). There were far too many red armbands.

I was glad to be able to be a part of this and last year's ride, but saddened that there was a reason behind why these rides were taking place. It brought tears to my eyes and a lump to my throat seeing all who joined in this year. The last count I heard was that 2,500 riders joined in and the line stretched out from one side of the lake to the other where one could look across and still see riders on the other side.

It was gratifying to see cars and spectators stopped along the side of the road, watching the riders pass by, some with cameras freezing this moment in time forever. I think my most memorable moment came on the east side of the lake, looking west and seeing the setting sun cast color and sparkles on the lake and knowing that we were doing this to honor those who would never look at another sunset due to the momentary carelessness of someone in a motor vehicle.

I'd like to say that the ride was without incident, but I can't. I personally witnessed two incidents where people who were delayed by our ride were verbally inciteful. I guess some people will never get it. All we ask is that we be allowed to share the road in safety. So these rides will no longer be necessary and we won't have to ride in total silence, mourning those who have passed on needlessly.

Read more about the Ride of Silence here: <http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/city/dallas/stories/052004dnmetsilence.30d34.html>

MOSQUITO MISTING SYSTEMS

~ Sandi Holmes, Information from dirtdoctor.com

There are mosquito misting systems that are becoming popular because of heavy advertising. The concept of the system is good but there is a problem with the product they are using.

Mosquito misting systems that are set up all around the property and mist out insect control periodically are good in concept, but bad in details. The bad detail is that most of these systems are using pyrethrum or pyrethroids. Both are neurotoxins and should not be used. Pyrethrum is a natural material made from the painted daisy. Companies are selling these products as organic but they are often used with other, very toxic chemicals like piperonyl or PBO. They do effect mosquitoes but also kill beneficial insects and can cause allergic reactions in people. Anyone with asthma or other breathing difficulties may experience trouble after being around these systems.

Plus the fact that there are alternative products that work as well and are non-toxic. Cedar oil is the answer. It smells good, repels mosquitoes

very well, doesn't kill beneficial insects, won't hurt frogs, toads, lizards and birds and does not cause allergic reactions in people. Commercial products and systems are available so give it a try.

Please consider the long-term effects of these systems on your children, your pets and your own health. It will harm koi or goldfish if you have a pond, and can settle on your, or your neighbor's vegetable garden.



Effective, Non-Toxic Site Management Program for Mosquito Control

1. Empty standing water where possible. Even small containers such as pot saucers, old tires and even soda bottles and cans hold enough water for mosquito breeding.
2. Treat water that cannot be emptied with gambusia fish or Bti (Bacillus thuringiensis 'Israelensis') products such as Bactimos Briquettes or Mosquito Dunks.
3. Homeowners can spray for temporary control adult mosquitoes with garlic-pepper tea, orange oil pesticides such as Garden-Ville Auntie Fuego or citronella sprays such as Skeeter D'Feeter.

Broadcast finely ground cedar granules where mosquitoes are a significant problem.

4. Use organic landscape management to encourage birds, bats, fish, dragonflies and other beneficial insects.

5. Use skin repellents that contain natural repellent herbs such aloe vera, eucalyptus, tea tree oil, lavender, vanilla and citronella. Effective commercial products include Cactus Juice, vanilla and water, LiceBGone and Cedar-Cide. DEET products should not be used, especially on children - as is stated on the label.

6. Bug light devices do not work! They kill more beneficial insects than the pests. The new products that combine carbon dioxide with other attractants seem to help if the budget allows.

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JUNE YARD OF THE MONTH

The June yard-of-the-month goes to the home of Lloyd and Deborah Loving at 5607 Willis. They started building their home 5 years ago and have occupied it for about 1 ½ years. Deborah said she saw the plan for the house in a Better Home and Garden magazine and fell in love with it. To me the house has a New Orleans plantation feel and it is sprawling. Deborah enrolled in a horticultural program at Richland College to be up for the challenge of landscaping the house herself. It's still a work in progress, but she has done some amazing things.



5607 Willis

The front yard has 4 distinct areas, all going from the sidewalk to the front of the house. Looking at the house, on the far right is a raised bed that contains nandinas, yaupons, Japanese maples, wood ferns, hosta, caladiums and variegated liriop. Just to the left of that bed is a beautiful dry stream bed filled with colorful, round salt water rocks. This bed winds up to the house then veers to the side of the house. The middle area is still in the working stages, but up by the front porch are some nice blue point junipers, creeping junipers and a bubbly water feature. The last planting area contains many of the same plants as the first bed I described. They also have a beautiful container garden on the side of the house that has many herbs, peppers, flowers and garden statues. It's a lovely house, garden and more importantly lovely neighbors. Stop by and say "hi".

Plant: warm-season grasses, summer annual color; zinnia, marigolds, verbena etc., shrubs and trees.

Fertilize: all planting areas with 100% organic fertilizer.

Prune: dead and damaged wood from trees and shrubs, remove spent flowers from daisies, daylilies, cannas and other summer flowers.

Water: all planting areas deeply but as infrequently as possible. Those of you with automatic sprinklers are doing more harm than good by having your sprinkler come on every day.

Pests: for Spider mite, use a garlic/pepper tea or soap and water. Spray every 3 days, for 9 days. Encourage good bugs that'll eat the unwanted ones. Don't spray indiscriminately. Know what you're spraying before you do it. It may be ugly looking but could be there to take care of the pests that are eating your tomatoes or roses.

Don't forget, if you've got a birdbath or anything that holds water; clean it out every week so mosquitoes don't have a place to lay their eggs.

Happy gardening,
Sandi
sandimholmes@yahoo.com



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