



# Vickery Place Neighborhood NEWS

GREENVILLE-BELMONT-HENDERSON-CENTRAL-GOODWIN

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



## FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING

Date: Thursday, Feb. 10<sup>TH</sup>  
Time: 7:00 PM  
Place: Vickery Towers at Belmont & Greenville Avenue

Please plan to join us at our February general meeting to hear pros and cons on the Strong Mayor proposal.

## VPNA PRESENTS STRONG MAYOR FORUM

You've heard the heated rhetoric, the charges and counter charges, and the ad hominem attacks. Now come decide for yourself as representatives of the major groups supporting and

opposing the Strong Mayor proposal square off in a debate at our February 10 general meeting.

Whether you are for or against the proposal, or somewhere in between, it is undeniable that the Strong Mayor referendum represents one of the most exciting exercises in direct democracy that Dallas had seen in many years. The referendum has the potential for creating profound change in the way the City is run by abolishing the City Manager and vesting all executive power in the hands of the mayor. Whether such a change would be for good or for ill is the subject of passionate views on both sides. And their representatives are anxious to make their case to residents of Vickery Place.

Beth Ann Blackwood, credited with initiating the referendum, has tentatively agreed to appear on behalf of Citizens for a Strong Mayor, the political action committee formed to spearhead support for the measure. In November Ms. Blackwood turned in 30,000 signatures to the City Secretary to put her Strong Mayor plan on the May 7 ballot.

The political action committee formed in opposition, Coalition for Strong Government, also has agreed to participate. The Coalition for Strong Government was formed at the instance of several City Council members who oppose the Blackwood proposal. At press time, the opposition group had yet to propose its representative. VPNA vice president Bruce Thomas will moderate the debate.

In addition to the two groups presently invited, it is possible that other groups, pro or con, may emerge and also will be invited to participate in the VPNA Strong Mayor Forum. But to be sure, YOU are invited. So come armed with your questions and demand straight talk on the Strong Mayor. It promises to be an exciting and informative evening.

~ Bruce Thomas

Volume 24, Issue 2  
February 2005



**Bulky Trash/Basura Abultado**  
Don't Set Out Trash Before:  
Thursday, February 10

**Pick Up Week:**  
FEB. 14th - 19th



## NEIGHBORS GATHER FOR FIRST VPNA MEETING OF NEW YEAR

The January meeting of the Vickery Place Neighborhood Association was both informative and well attended. Several neighbors mentioned that their New Year's Resolution is to get more involved in neighborhood and community activities.

New board member, Lindsey LeCuyer, chaired the meeting and introduced the officers and members of the 2005 board.

John Franz, Nationwide Insurance, shared knowledge on various types of homeowner policies available in Texas as well as information on the black mold "epidemic".

Beth Bentley gave an overview of the recent "Teardown" meeting hosted by the City of Dallas as part of the "Forward

Dallas Comprehensive Plan". She also reported on the status of Vickery Place Conservation District efforts and stated that the City Planning Department is targeting early summer of 2005 to perform a feasibility study of Vickery Place.

Lindsey opened the meeting to questions and suggestions from the floor. A variety of issues including new major projects such as paid security patrol, alley paving and sidewalk paving along with program topics for the coming year were discussed. Additional concerns voiced by Vickery Place residents included code violations, stray animals, irresponsible pet owners, bulky trash and graffiti. Neighbors also showed an interest in a Vickery Place directory and an e-mail hot line.

Committee sign up sheets were made available and people were encouraged to volunteer for the coming year.

As always, our thanks to Vickery Towers for providing us with a great meeting spot and to our neighbors who make Vickery Place such a great place to live. See you next month.

~ Sandi Holmes-Schwedler

### CRIME STATS (November and December 2004)

THEFT	12/15/04	55XX BELMONT	RES
AUTO THEFT	12/16/04	56XX BELMONT	OTHER
BURGLARY	11/14/04	54XX BONITA	RES
ROBBERY	12/13/04	19XX GREENVILLE	RETAIL
THEFT	11/15/04	19XX HENDERSON	OTHER
OTHER	12/03/04	23XX HENDERSON	OTHER
BURGLARY	12/21/04	25XX HENDERSON	RES
BURGLARY	12/20/04	26XX HENDERSON	RES
OTHER ASLT	12/11/04	26XX HENDERSON	RES
ROBBERY	12/13/04	28XX HENDERSON	OTHER
VANDAL	12/12/04	28XX HENDERSON	OTHER
VANDAL	12/11/04	23XX MADERA	OTHER
AUTO THEFT	12/18/04	26XX MADERA	RES
BURGLARY	12/06/04	55XX MILLER	RES
BURGLARY	12/06/04	55XX MILLER	OTHER
VANDAL	12/16/04	55XX MILLER	OTHER
TEL HARASSMT	12/02/04	56XX MILLER	RES
OTHER ASLT	12/04/04	55XX MILLER	RES
BURGLARY	12/05/04	55XX RICHARD	RES
OTHER	12/16/04	55XX RICHARD	OTHER
THEFT	12/21/04	53XX VICKERY	OTHER
THEFT	12/02/04	51XX WILLIS	OTHER
FRAUD	11/20/04	51XX WILLIS	RES
AUTO THEFT	12/13/04	56XX WILLIS	OTHER
RAPE	12/16/04	WITHHELD	RES



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## OUR BEST TO LESLIE...

As many of you know, our neighbor, Leslie Farrell, was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia shortly after Christmas. She is undergoing the arduous treatment of chemotherapy, but receiving great care from her family, friends and her partner, Angi.

A voice for our neighborhood, Leslie served as 2004 President of VPNA, writes crime prevention articles for the VPNA newsletter and regularly attends city meetings and forums on various community interests, reporting back to VPNA.

Due to current inability to fight infection, she may not receive visitors; however, spirit-lifting cards are much appreciated. Please send your mail to Leslie in care of VPNA, P. O. Box 720192, Dallas, TX 75372. If you would like to receive regular email updates of Leslie's progress and know more about how you can lend a helping hand, let us know at [info@vpna.org](mailto:info@vpna.org).

Blood donations are another way of showing your support. Vickery Place Neighborhood Association along with Carter BloodCare, are sponsoring a blood drive in Leslie's name to help defer medical costs for Leslie—each pint collected is one credit good for Leslie, which she can redeem when needed. We need to have at least 20 people sign up ahead of time to make it cost effective for the mobile unit to come out. They will also take walk-ins, but prefer scheduling people. The whole process including filling out paper work takes about 1 hour. Please call Beth Bentley, 214 821-0831, if you are interested in giving blood in Leslie's name. For eligibility information visit: <http://www.carterbloodcare.org/wsf/eligibility.htm>

Whole Foods is showing their neighborly support by allowing us to use their parking lot and having signage up in their store.

If you cannot give on this date, you may also go to one of the local Blood Banks. Convenient to our neighborhood is Carter Blood Bank at Baylor Medical Center. You may give whole blood or platelets. The blood bank is located on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor, room 410, of the Sammons Building. The parking lot facing Worth Street is directly across the street from the Sammons Building. You will be given a token for free parking. For additional information visit their website [www.carterbloodcare.org](http://www.carterbloodcare.org).

~ Shelia Huffman

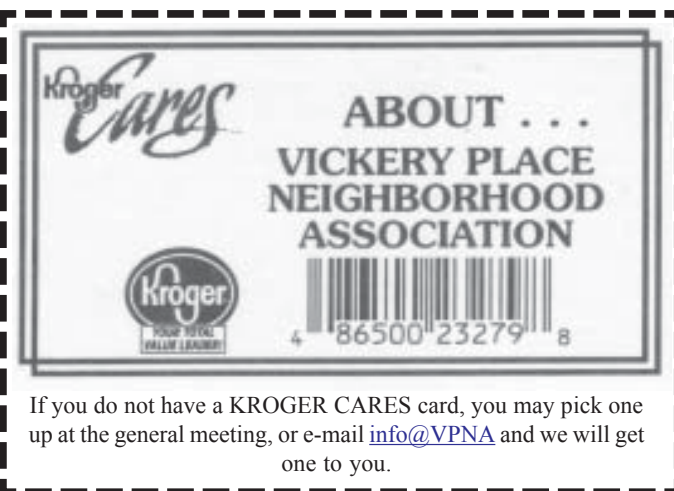
## Neighborhood Blood Drive

Date: Saturday, February 12

Time: 8 a.m. to 12 noon

Place: Whole Foods Parking Lot, Belmont & Greenville Ave.

**CARTER  
BLOODCARE**  
Your Community Not-For-Profit Blood Center



If you do not have a KROGER CARES card, you may pick one up at the general meeting, or e-mail [info@VPNA](mailto:info@VPNA) and we will get one to you.

## KROGER CARES

Please remember to use your KROGER CARES cards when you shop for groceries. It is so easy! Just carry it in your wallet and remember to give the card to the cashier to scan along with your KROGER PLUS card when you pay for your groceries. You can scan it at the self-check out machines, too. The percentage that Kroger gives to **VICKERY PLACE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION** really adds up. We receive quarterly checks from Kroger and this money helps fund the newsletter, National Night Out, the Dog Show, tree plantings and other neighborhood projects and community services.



**REGISTER YOUR HOME WITH THE AMERICAN BUNGALOW REGISTRY**

The American Bungalow Registry is a privately funded archive of period homes, established to protect America's historic houses and neighborhoods.

Registering your home is easy and free – without restriction or obligation to homeowner or future buyers. (Registered homeowners may purchase a certificate and window placard for display in their home but that is not required. The cost for the certificate and placard is \$9.95.)



To register your home, visit [www.americanbungalow.com](http://www.americanbungalow.com) and scroll down to Bungalow Registry. You may register on-line or download the registration form and register by mail. You will need a photograph of your home to submit with the registration form.

If you need help or additional information, email [info@vpna.org](mailto:info@vpna.org).

~ *Shelia Huffman*

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## CONSERVATION LITE: SOLUTION TO NEW BUILD INFILL?

Neighborhood residents and Dallas City staff were well represented at the Forward Dallas! “Tear-down” meeting on Monday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at the Lake Highlands Freshman Center. City Council members Veletta Forsyth-Lill (District 14), Lois Finkelman (District 11), Gary Griffith (District 9), and Bill Blaydes (10) were present, along with Theresa O’Donnell, Director of Development Services and John Fregonese, Urban Planner for the City of Dallas Comprehensive Plan. Daniel Kerry, from the National Trust for Historic Preservation of Ft Worth was also on hand. Neighborhoods represented included Lakewood Heights, Lakewood, Greenland Hills, Vickery Place, Edgemont Park, Preston Forest, Preston Royal, Preston Hollow North, Preston Hollow East, Bluffview, Munger Place, Peak Suburban, and the Love Field area. Other contributing remarks came from Ann Abernathy, Preservation Dallas and Neil Emmons, City Planning Commissioner/Landmark Commissioner.

Mr. Fregonese started with an overview of comments/concerns gathered from the previous meeting in November 2004, the main one being: ‘teardowns and new infill are destroying the appeal of the traditional neighborhoods’—loss of privacy (max lot size), loss of daylight, loss of open space, incompatible architecture. Some things people would like to see happening in their neighborhoods—house/lot ratio, floor area ratio (FAR), and close access to shopping/food.



A Question and Answer/Comment period followed, which covered a variety of concerns in regard to the teardown/new build phenomena: inconsistent set backs of newer built homes (breaks up the streetscape and blocks your safety line of vision); drainage problems as a result of homes being built up higher than their neighbors; more traffic on residential streets; more noise (many stated that workers began before 7 a.m.); no response from the City on called in building code violations; older trees being torn down; dust and pollutants in the air from demolition; varying heights and styles of newer homes compared to surrounding older homes. The quote of the night came from a man who has resided in Preston Hollow for the past 20 years, “I now live in a new neighborhood, and I didn’t move!” The City graciously listened to

anyone and everyone who expressed their thoughts and concerns.

Ms. O’Donnell then introduced some tools the City hopes to implement in the coming months. These would be less regulatory but easier and quicker to issue than the current Conservation or Historic District ordinances—or as Theresa put it, “Conservation Lite”. These new zoning tools, which are still being developed by the Planning Dept., would look at floor area ratio (FAR), lot coverage, impervious surface (concrete, etc.), shadow casting (sunlight blockage) and set backs.

City staff will take all of this information back to their drawing boards and will schedule a follow up meeting sometime in March. Check your March newsletter for further information or go to [www.forwarddallas.org](http://www.forwarddallas.org).

~ Beth Bentley



Thanks for hosting VPNA.org



Vickery Place stickers, like the one above, can be purchased for \$5 each. T-shirts are on sale for \$10. You can buy them each month at our general meeting.

**\$ \*\*\*\*\* NOW THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT! \*\*\*\*\* \$**



Does the cost of a night on the town for your family match your car payment? Movie and popcorn for your group pay for a small appliance? Area schools and companies offer fantastic live performances using students and local talent at a fraction of the cost of major professional productions.

East Dallasites look forward every year to Woodrow Wilson's Spring Musical. This year they are performing *Les Miserables* April 14 – 17. Tickets go on sale March 31. Contact Deb Crabb at 214-823-3267.

This season, The Dallas Children's Theater will present *If You Give A Mouse A Cookie*, *A Midnight Cry* and *The Magician's Nephew* to name a few. Call their box office at 214-740-0051 for tickets and information. Ticket prices are usually about \$10.00.

The Dallas Museum of Art will present Jazz in the Atrium with *Paul Rogers Group* on February 10, *Freddie Jones Group* on February 17, and *Rhett Butler Quartet* on February 24. These performances are free and they all start at 6:00 pm. The Dallas Classical Guitar Society will perform in the Horchow Auditorium on February 19 at 3:00 in the afternoon. Again, the price is right, \$10.00 at door, \$5.00 for students, DMA members and seniors. February 26, also in the Horchow Auditorium and free to the public, Van Cliburn gold medallist, *Jose Feghali and pianist Petronel Malan* perform Twenty Fingers, an afternoon of classical piano.

The Anita Martinez Ballet Folklorico celebrates *Cinco de Mayo* with performances May 3 – 5 at the Latino Cultural Center at 2600 Live Oak and at the Majestic Theater, downtown. Their phone number is 214-828-0181. Janie Christy School of Dance performs *The Insect Inn and Celebration* at the Majestic on May 14 and Cherrilane School of Dance performs *Hooked on Disney* at the Majestic on May 21. Contact the dance studios for tickets and information. The phone numbers are Janie Christy, 214-343-7472 and Cherrilane, 214-821-2066. The Majestic Theater is also host to several free events during March, April and May such as The Anita Martinez Spring Recital of the Ballet Folklorico, America's Band and Choir Competition and the Nextstar Talent Competition. Go on-line to the Majestic website for information.

Ready for art? *Sketching in the Galleries* is a free program provided by the Dallas Museum of Art on Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30. Also, because no one should have an empty bowl, local artists and potters join top notch Dallas restaurants to host *The Empty Bowls* luncheon at the Mort Meyerson Symphony Hall on February 25<sup>th</sup>. A \$25.00 donation to the North Texas Food Bank gets you soup, bread, and dessert prepared by famous Dallas chefs along with a hand thrown/built, hand painted ceramic bowl by local artists and students. You may purchase tickets on-line at the North Texas Food Bank website.

And do you know that you can enjoy a four-course meal of International Cuisine for only \$9.00? The culinary students at *El Centro College* offer lunch on Thursdays in the department dining room during the Spring and Fall Semesters. Reservations are a must. Call 214- 860-2048

These are just a few suggestions, all convenient to Vickery Place, to get you started on a quest for great entertainment at low prices. Search the web and watch the Dallas Guide and other publications and take advantage of some area events that you and your family may enjoy.

If you know of an upcoming event staged by your school, organization or church and you would like to share it in the newsletter, contact me at [info@vpna.org](mailto:info@vpna.org).

~ Shelia Huffman





## ANNUAL ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION ON LOWER GREENVILLE:

Get ready! **Saturday, March 12, 2005** is the date for this year's annual Lower Greenville St. Patrick's Day Celebration, when thousands of partygoers will invade Lower Greenville (and parts of Vickery Place). The resulting impact to the neighborhoods is high traffic, parking congestion, litter, and noise.

Area neighborhoods, including Vickery Place, will be coordinating preparatory measures, through the City's St. Patrick's Day Task Force Committee. The Committee will meet at City Hall on Thursday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 pm, 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. The City will be providing temporary No-Parking signs that must be placed by VP residents.

VPNA will host a sign building party—time and place still to be determined. ***All VP residents are invited to come help build the signs.*** With approximately 200 signs to assemble, we will need all the extra hands and hammers we can muster! More on this important event at the February General Meeting and in March's Newsletter.



### FOR LOVE OR MONEY

A young Frenchman, Charles, Duke of Orleans, was one of the earliest creators of valentines, called "poetical or amorous addresses." From his confinement in the Tower of London after the Battle of Agincourt in 1415, he sent several poems or rhymed love letters or "valentines" to his wife in France.

During the fifteenth century, one valentine showed a drawing of a knight and a lady, with Cupid in the act of sending an arrow to pierce the knight's heart.

During the seventeenth century people made their own valentines using original verse or poems copied from booklets with appropriate verse.

The first U.S. made valentines were crafted by a Mount Holyoke College student, Miss Esther Howland. Her father, a stationer in Worcester, MA, imported valentines every year from England. Esther, however, decided to create her own valentine messages. Around 1830 she began importing lace, fine papers, and other supplies for her valentines. She employed several assistants and her brothers helped market her "Worcester" valentines. As one of our first successful U.S. career women her sales amounted to about a hundred thousand dollars annually—not bad for the 1830's. <http://www.techdirect.com/valentine/history.html>



### CHOCOLATE COVERED STRAWBERRIES AND CHAMPAGNE

Even the non-cook will love this recipe.

- Purchase your favorite Champagne and chill.
- Buy fresh strawberries that have their stems intact. Wash, and dry well.
- Chocolate dip: buy Bark Coating (available at your local grocery store). Melt in double boiler on top of the stove or in a microwavable safe container in the microwave--follow directions on the back of the package. Dip strawberries in the melted coating. Place on wax or parchment paper to harden. Serve your Valentine!



## VICKERY PLACE RECYCLES

Recycling has many benefits including helping to reduce the need for land fills, helping to decrease the emissions of greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming and helping to conserve natural resources. Luckily, the City of Dallas offers trash collection recycling. Help in the City's conservation efforts by following these easy guidelines.

In a brown paper bag, you may include:

- Newspapers and inserts.
- Mixed paper: magazines, junk mail and home/office paper.
- Chipboard, such as dry food boxes free of wax paper.

In a translucent blue bag, 13 gallons or larger in size, you may include:

- Glass containers, unbroken and rinsed.
- Plastic bottles with codes 1, 2 or 3, rinsed and without caps.
- Flattened steel/tin food cans.
- Aerosol cans that are empty (no paint or hazardous waste cans.)

Translucent blue bags can be purchased at most of the area grocery stores in the trash bag aisle. Although it is recommended that materials be crushed and flattened to save space within blue bags, this is not a requirement.

Collection is on Thursdays and the recyclable material should be placed beside your roll cart on that day. Please make sure the containers are closed so that content does not blow into the street or alley. Set the items out only on scheduled pick up day so that they are not confused with bulky trash which could result in a fine.

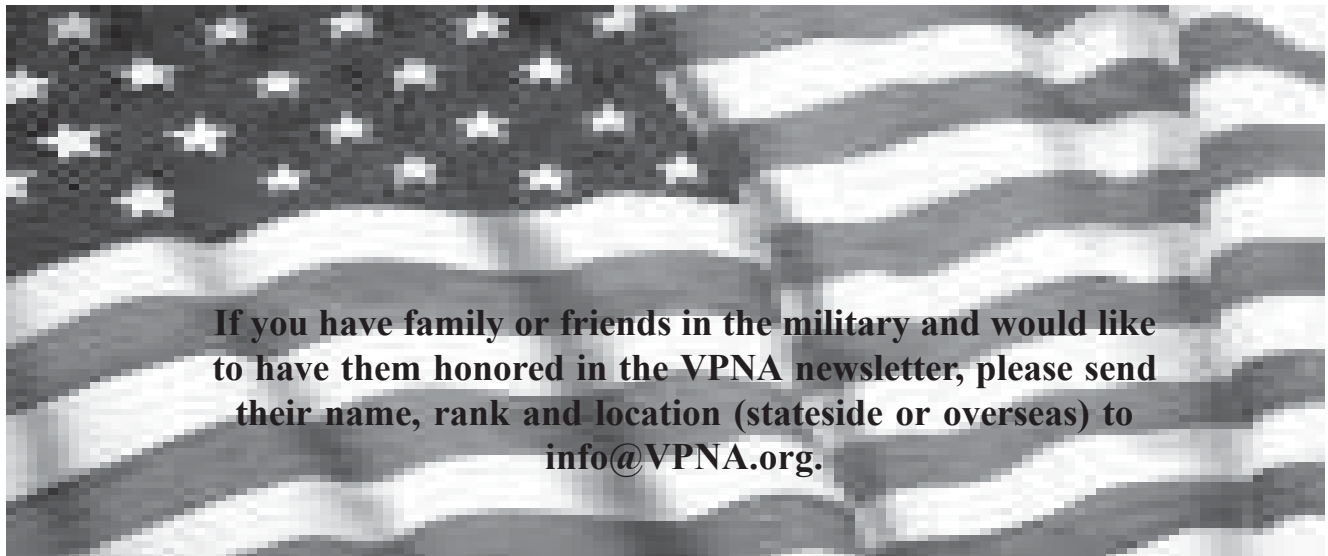
~ Sarah Gustashaw



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**If you have family or friends in the military and would like to have them honored in the VPNA newsletter, please send their name, rank and location (stateside or overseas) to [info@VPNA.org](mailto:info@VPNA.org).**