



Vickery Place Neighborhood NEWS

GREENVILLE-BELMONT-HENDERSON-CENTRAL-GOODWIN

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



HISTORY OF VICKERY PLACE NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

VPNA began participation in 1991 when a small group of neighbors walked a designated route through the neighborhood, then met in the drive-way of a home on Richard Avenue to share watermelon.

The following year, the party advanced to a bigger celebration complete with food, drink and raffle prizes in the front yard of a home on Vickery Boulevard.

1997 was the first really big event at Laneri and Goodwin. Eventually we had to take in several blocks and moved the party to Glencoe between Willis and Miller.

This year the 5500 block of Vickery and the Worcola intersection will again host the festivities and promises to be yet another great event! Come meet your neighbors!



COUNTDOWN TO NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2005

The 22nd Annual National Night Out Against Crime Block Party will take place on Tuesday, August 2nd from 6:30 – 8:30. Every year, on the first

Tuesday in August, neighborhoods around the country sponsor similar events to foster camaraderie between residents and show our support for a crime-free neighborhood. As is tradition in Dallas, August 2nd is likely to be the hottest night of the year, so the event will be held on the *shady* 5500 block of Vickery!



Come join your Vickery Place neighbors for a fun night that includes, food, drink and entertainment for all ages. Representatives from the Dallas Police Department and local civic leaders will be on hand to provide tips on crime prevention and personal safety. Complimentary child ID fingerprint and DNA kits will be provided, though the quantity is limited, so come early to take advantage of this valuable safety tool! There will also be a moon bounce, clown, and dunk tank. Gifts donated by local businesses will be raffled and auctioned, and the Colin Boyd Band will entertain.

The event is free of charge and open to all Vickery Place residents, friends and families. Food, drinks and raffle tickets will be available at a small charge.

Bulky Trash/Basura Abultado

Don't Set Out Trash Before:

Thursday, August 11

Pick Up Week:

August 15 - 19

VOLUNTEERS are still needed! Call Shelia, 214 827-4568 if you would like to help.

**August 2nd
National Night Out**

**September 8th
Crime and Code**

SEE YOU THERE!

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RUMBLEY ROCKS!

The July general meeting of VPNA was a festive evening. Society Bakery, the new sweet shop at Greenville and McCommas, treated us to a delicious Italian Crème Cake, Vickery Towers provided coffee and tea, and Central Market donated a fantastic door prize.

President Eric LeBlanc encouraged everyone to be on hand and to volunteer for NNO on August 2nd.

Lindsey Lecuyer previewed some of the fantastic prizes that will be raffled at NNO and had raffle tickets available for early purchase.



**Drawing the winning ticket
Nathan Bass Roberts**

Kathryn Baronet, board member of Bridge the Gap, showed a short video and explained the Bridge the Gap Program between Vickery Towers and Lakewood Elementary School. For more information about this wonderful concept see the story on page 7.

And who is the best storyteller around? According to the locals and the old timers, that would be Rose-Mary Rumbley. Once again Dr. Rumbley informed and entertained VPNA with an amusing lesson in Dallas history. This time with tales of Dallas parks and the people who shaped them in a review of her newest book, *Strolling Through the Park*.

Old City Park, established in 1876, was the first of Dallas parks and remains today a celebrant of Dallas' colorful history. The first State Fair of Texas held on the grounds at Fair Park was in 1884. It was Billy Gaston who purchased and donated the land for Fair Park. White Rock Lake was the third Dallas park. You could rent both a sail boat and a swimsuit at White Rock. Franklin Roosevelt's WPA program helped beautify White Rock Lake and it was the site of a German Prison Camp during World War II. Dr. Rumbley shared many interesting stories about residents of Dallas, names we hear everyday, and the part they played in the history of Dallas Parks and Recreation. The namesake of Teitze Park was the first park director for the City of Dallas. Ebby Halliday served on the park board in the 1960's.

It is always a special treat to hear Dr. Rumbley's delightful presentations. *Strolling Through the Park* is about to be released. Look for it at your local book store.

Beth Timpson Clark was the winner of the door prize, a cooking lesson from the Central Market Cooking School.

It was yet another fun and informative evening for VPNA and we thank everyone who contributed to the meeting.



**Door prize winner Beth Timpson-Clark,
Rose-Mary Rumbley, and Rick Bentley**



**Rose-Mary Rumbley visiting with
Vickery Tower residents**



**Please show your support to the local area
merchants who advertise in the Vickery Place newsletter
or who have donated to our National Night Out event
by frequenting their shops and saying thank-you!**

THANKS TO ALL OF OUR GREAT SPONSORS WHO DONATED TO THIS YEAR'S NATIONAL NIGHT OUT!

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IS THERE A BUILDER SIGN IN THE YARD NEXT DOOR? SIDE SETBACKS

Setbacks help define the look and feel of a neighborhood, especially the front and side setbacks which create the streetscape. Additionally, there are other serious complications when buildings are too close together. When a lot on your street or block is being prepared for construction view the plans immediately to make sure that they meet the setback requirements.



Setbacks (described as “required front, side and rear yards” in the Dallas Development Code) are areas adjacent to your property lines that must remain clear and unobstructed except for fences. The setbacks for single family residential lots zoned R-7.5 (as in VP) are as follows:

Front setbacks - 25 ft. minimum, measured from the property line, which starts at the inside of the front sidewalk or at the inside of the right-of-way easement (approx. 8’-10’ from the street) if there is no sidewalk, to the front of the house.

Side setbacks - 5 ft. minimum, measured from the property line to the main wall, however certain items are allowed to encroach into a required setback such as chimneys, eaves, air conditioning units, etc. If it is a corner lot, the property line for the side along the street starts on the inside of the sidewalk or the inside of the right-of-way easement (approx 8’-10’ from the street) if there is no side walk.

Rear setbacks - 5 ft. minimum, measured from property line, which starts at the alley, to the rear of the house. For accessory buildings or detached garages, it is 3 ft. from the property line.

Side setbacks for residential development were established due to safety concerns (fire spreading between adjacent houses), and to maintain aesthetics (defining individual properties, and having a balance between green space and impervious surfaces).

As more and more new houses and progressively larger houses are being constructed within Vickery Place, the natural barriers such as driveways and the wider side setbacks are dwindling. Although this construction still complies with the City Development Code, there are some problems arising as a result.

Since there were no regulated setbacks when many of the homes of VP were built, you find some are not 5 ft. from the side property line; they may be only 2-3 ft. Usually this occurs on the side with the neighboring driveway, so there is still a comfortable distance between homes. However, many of the newer homes being constructed today are removing the neighboring driveway to make way for a larger home and more square footage. Consequently, the space between the two homes could end up only being 7-8 ft., rather than the prevailing 10-15 ft. Overhanging eaves and protruding chimneys or AC units (which are still to code) can further reduce the distance between houses.



With such a close proximity, the end result could be dangerous, as in the case of a house fire spreading to the neighboring house. It also limits access to that side of the house, making it difficult to do needed repairs, painting or maintenance. And then there is the fact that you can look directly into your neighbor’s kitchen or family room and they into yours!



Another potential problem with close proximity between two homes is drainage. Most of the newer homes are built up a foot or two higher than the older homes. This, coupled with a smaller amount of green space to absorb runoff rainwater, leaves nowhere for excess water to go—it then either becomes stagnant standing water or if it does flow, it goes under the lower house, possibly causing damage to the foundation.

Since this type of construction still follows the City Development Code, there is not much recourse for someone facing these issues. However, if you are concerned about a new house being built or going to be built next door to you, you may try approaching the builder or new homeowner *before* the foundation slab is poured and see if you can reach an agreement on an amiable distance between your homes. A future solution would be to modify the setback distance and/or square footage of new homes, as Vickery Place neighbors develop our Conservation District ordinance.

COMPUTER RECYCLING

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.

- 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.



SCHOOL UNIFORMS FOR DALLAS SCHOOLS

The DISD Board of Trustees on March 31 approved a change to the district's dress code policy that requires student uniforms for all elementary and middle school students beginning this fall.

The required colors for elementary and middle school student uniforms are solid khaki, navy blue, or black for the bottom attire, and white for the shirt or blouse. The approved clothing items include shirts and blouses, turtleneck and polo-style shirts, slacks and pants, skirts and jumpers, shorts and capri pants, and jackets, cardigans, and sweaters. Shirts, blouses, turtleneck, or polo-style shirts must have collars. Skirts, jumpers, shorts, and capri pants must be at least knee length. The colors of jackets, cardigans, and sweaters must match the approved uniform colors. There will be no jeans and t-shirts allowed. There will be no low-cut or low-rise pants, sagging slacks or pants, or clothing with manufactures' trademarks larger than one inch. Clothing with non-DISD logos and insignias, such as those of professional sports teams are not allowed.

A girl might wear a white button down blouse with collar, khaki knee length skirt and a navy cardigan. A boy might wear a white pull over polo with collar and navy pants with a belt.

Students must wear athletic shoes, loafers, dress shoes, or other closed-toe, closed-heel shoes. Closed-toe and open-heel mules are allowed.

Although DISD does not endorse or require any particular brand of uniform, the following local stores do carry approved uniforms. Target offers the French Toast brand, Wal-Mart the Simply Basic, Dillards the Copper Key and Parkers in Casa Linda their own brand. Prices vary with shirts and blouses starting between \$10.99 and \$18.00 depending on the store. Shop around. Many stores may be having a back to school sale. For more information and a look at the complete brochure go to www.dallasisd.org.



Jake Rachel
5th gr. Lakewood



Tori Zimmerman
6th gr. Stonewall

.....

TOMATO SOUP SPICE CAKE ~ UM UM Good!



Yield: One 9" x 13" oblong or two 9" rounds

- 2 cups Flour
- 1 1/3 cup Sugar
- 4 tsp. Baking Powder
- 1 1/2 tsp. All Spice
- 1 tsp. Baking Soda
- 1 tsp. Ground Cinnamon
- 1/2 cup Vegetable Shortening
- 1 can Campbell's Condensed Cream of Tomato Soup
- 1/2 tsp. Ground cloves
- 2 whole Eggs
- 1/4 cup Water

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease and flour cake pans.
Combine all the ingredients in mixing bowl. Mix on low speed until well mixed. Beat on high speed for 4 minutes.
Pour batter into baking pans and bake for 35 – 40 minutes. Cool on wire rack for 10 minutes.
Frost with a cream cheese icing. Enjoy!



BRIDGE THE GAP

Bridge the Gap is a grass roots program involving 3rd grade students at Lakewood Elementary School and residents of Vickery Towers. It was organized two years ago with a mission to “create connection, compassion and understanding between generations by bringing together children and the elderly.”

Many grandparents and grandchildren are separated by distance in today’s mobile society. Some seniors simply do not have grandchildren. Bridge the Gap believes there is a wealth of information children can learn from seniors and supports the evidence that children bring fresh experiences and enthusiasm into the lives of older citizens.



The program is funded by donations and run by volunteers. If you would like information on how you can help you may contact: Bridge the Gap, 6235 Oram St. # 204, Dallas, TX 75214.

Attend the Texas Hold’em and Wine Tasting benefiting Bridge the Gap on September 24th, 8-11pm, at the new Times Ten Cellar at 6324 Prospect Avenue in Lakewood. Tickets are \$30 per person and \$50 per couple.. To purchase tickets, call 214.826.9905.

**CAREFUL
SCHOOL ZONE**

**CUIDADO
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**SCHOOL STARTS
AUGUST 15**

**WATCH FOR
SCHOOL ZONES**

STONEWALL JACKSON LEADER CHOSEN PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

Olivia Henderson, principal at Stonewall Jackson Elementary School, was named the DISD 2005-2006 Principal of the Year at an event sponsored by AXA-Advisors.

Henderson has been principal of the U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon School for the past 14 years. She has 34 years of experience in education. Henderson began her career as a special education teacher at the now-closed William B. Carroll Elementary School.

Henderson, who received \$3,000 as part of the award, is described as “a principal who possesses all of the attributes of an outstanding leader.” Among the qualities cited are integrity, trust, strong communication skills, and in-depth knowledge of curriculum. One of the programs Henderson has established at Stonewall Jackson is Saturday School, designed to give at-risk students extra tutoring in small groups. She also instituted after-school tutoring and mentoring programs and actively supports the school’s after-school childcare program, which provides a safe environment for students whose parents work.

TEXAS GARDENING IN AUGUST

Plant:

- Similar to July, you can plant your fall mum, asters zinnias etc.. be sure to check them every day to ensure they're getting enough water. Don't over-water though! Watering too much will kill them as fast as watering too little.
- Finish planting fall vegetables like beans, corn & cucumbers. If you are truly interested in a full list of fall vegetables, you can email me and I'll send it to you.
- Now is the time to plant wildflower seeds for spring blooming! Make sure the seeds are for this area. Go to www.nativeamericanseed.com for information on wildflower seed mixes that do well in our region. You can also call for a free catalog 1-800-728-4043.

Prune:

- Always trim off spent flowers or flower stalks to promote re-blooming.

Water:

- Please adhere to Dallas' watering restrictions; no watering between 10 am – 6pm. Manually turn your sprinkler systems on during the proper times to avoid a fine and to prevent maximum water evaporation.
- Like me, some of you still have window A/C in your home. Reclaim the water that drips from you're A/C to use for watering plants. We reclaim over 15 gallons a week!
- As always, water deeply and infrequently to encourage a deep root system in your plants and your lawn. (Don't give mosquitoes a place to breed, empty any standing water from around your property)

Pest control:

- Fire ants – we all see them, especially after a hard, soaking rain...so what do you do about it? There are some great organic baits on the market like "Safer Brand Fire Ant Bait" and "Green Light Fire Ant Control with Conserve". These products contain the active ingredient "spinosad". Spinosad is a product formed from a common bacteria found on nature, which causes paralysis and death for the ants.
- Whatever pest you have, indoor or out, remember to try to choose an organic, non-toxic alternative for pest control.

Some plants may be poisonous to fish:

If you've spent a small fortune creating the perfect pondscape in your backyard, you'll want to choose the plants to place around it. The leaves, bark, fruit or roots of some plants can foul water and be fatal to fish. Here's what to avoid:

- Azalea
- Caladium
- Castor bean
- Ponderosa pine
- Red maple
- Tomato

Email me if you have any questions about pests, organics or plants. I'd love to share ideas with you. Wear your hat and sunscreen and get your hands dirty!

~Sandi Holmes-Schwedler
sandimholmes@yahoo.com



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