



# Vickery Place Neighborhood NEWS

GREENVILLE-BELMONT-HENDERSON-CENTRAL-GOODWIN

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



## MARCH MEETING

Date: Thurs., March 13th

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: Trinity Hall in Mockingbird Station

## FROM DALLAS TO LONDON IN FIVE MINUTES!

The March general meeting will be a departure from the usual. VPNA will host a social hour at Trinity Hall in Mockingbird Station on Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM. Park free in the DART parking lot (see map), walk across the bridge over the train tracks, past the Angelika Theatre to Trinity Hall, an old style Irish Pub serving drinks and food. After an hour of meeting friends and catching up, we will walk down to the DART station and take the train to the only subway station in Dallas (maybe in Texas?). It's just a five minute ride, but it seems like you have arrived in a London Underground station when you step out on the platform at City Place. Dallas Area Rapid Transit will furnish FREE tickets for the train, and a DART representative will be our guide for a complete tour of the station. The station is a hundred feet below Central. The long escalators take you back up to ground level. Or, ride the inclinator, if you're so inclined! The station is gleaming and modern, reminiscent of the new Jubilee Line stations in London. After the tour, a free train ride back to Mockingbird Station. If you've never been to the City Place Station, you'll be amazed. Please join us!

## ANNUAL ST. PATRICK'S INVASION

Saturday, March 15 is the date for the annual Lower Greenville St. Patrick's Celebration. If you are a veteran of previous St. Patrick's events on Lower Greenville, you know that it is not mice that invade Vickery Place on St. Patrick's Saturday; it is instead thousands of party-goers making their way to Lower Greenville.

Inevitably, the resulting impact to the neighborhood is high traffic, parking congestion, litter, noise, and general disruption. In an effort to ameliorate the effects this event has on the surrounding neighborhoods, the St. Patrick's Day Task Force was formed in 2000. Composed of representatives of the neighborhoods, Lower Greenville bar owners, and City of Dallas officials, the Task Force seeks to provide proper planning so that disruption to the neighborhoods is minimized. This year, Goodwin Avenue resident and VPNA board member-at-large, Bruce Thomas represented Vickery Place on the Task Force.

As in previous years, the center piece of the Task Force plan is implementation of a traffic management

scheme to control parking and traffic congestion during the event. Greenville Avenue itself will be blocked from Vanderbilt to Vickery during the party. Neighborhood roads will be closed (except to residents) from Monticello to Miller two blocks west of Greenville, and NO PARKING will be permitted on the North side of most streets in Vickery Place. See map from last year's event on page 7.

For this year, temporary no-parking will be extended to the North side of the 5300 blocks of Goodwin, Vickery, and Miller, and well as the West side of Glencoe from Vanderbilt to Vickery. Additionally, more temporary no parking signs have been requested so that those destroyed may be replaced. DART will again offer a shuttle service from its Mockingbird station to help ease parking congestion. Street closures are effective from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. for the event, while restricted parking is in effect all day Saturday.

Additional improvements for the event include elimination of vendor trucks in the alleys, improved barricades in the alleys, additional and more accessible port-o-lets for party-goers, and improved police communication. The bars

promise clean-up by 2:00 p.m. Sunday.

Although the City prints our temporary no-parking signs (at the expense of the bar owners), it is up to VPNA to put the signs together and to place them throughout the designated no-parking areas in the neighborhood (and to collect them on Sunday). To that end, EVERYONE IS INVITED TO A SIGN BUILDING PARTY on Wednesday, March 12 at the home of Bruce and Pamela Thomas, at 5349 Goodwin, beginning at 5:00 p.m. Bring a hammer and gloves. Pizza and cokes will be provided. We have 180 no-parking signs to hammer together. To comply with City code requirements, the signs will be placed on Thursday evening (March 13). Again, volunteers are needed. If you observe that no-parking signs have been stolen or destroyed, call Bruce Thomas (214.405-3146) for replacements.

A final word of caution: *Remove your car from the NORTH-SIDE of the street on St. Patrick's Saturday*, and tell your neighbor to do the same. Cars parked in violation of the no-parking plan will be towed. There will be no exception for residents.

Please have a fun, but safe, St. Patrick's Weekend!

## Bulky Trash/Basura Abultado

Don't Set Out Trash Before:  
Thursday, March 6th



Pick Up Week:  
March 10th - 14th

Volume 23, Issue 3  
March 2003

## CRIME STATS

Theft	01/10/03	52XX Vickery
Tel Harassment	01/18/03	53XX Goodwin

## FEBRUARY MEETING SUMMARY

In spite of a rainy evening, February saw a good turnout of members, including several new folks, at the VPNA general meeting. We are always to happy to welcome new residents to Vickery Place and to the neighborhood association.

President, Morris Smart, brought the meeting to order.

ICP Officer James Johnson reported on area crime. Statistics continue to be down in our neighborhood. He reported on the recent burglary of a local business but added that the offenders were apprehended the same evening as the crime. He gave an update on the business operating as Dallas Bath and Spa on Henderson Avenue. Homeless campsites are springing up in the outskirts of downtown with the renovation of warehouses and lofts, (former homesites). Johnson urged anyone seeing a camp to notify the police as they are illegal.

Board member, Bruce Thomas, gave an update of the St. Patrick's Day Task Force for the March 15 street festival on Lower Greenville. He distributed a copy of last year's street map and gave a run down of the celebration for those

who are new to the area. Bruce said that the task force has asked for extra police presence in the neighborhood, especially after dark. DART will run their shuttle until 7pm and extra taxis over last year's numbers have been requested. Streets will be closed from 11:00am until 6:00pm on Saturday. The bars have promised to have the streets cleared of party debris by 2pm on Sunday. Once again, "No Parking" signs will be installed throughout Vickery Place according to plan. The sign assembly party will be held in the Thomas' garage at 5349 Goodwin at 5pm on Wednesday, March 12. All are invited. Signs will be erected the following evening.

Beth Bently reported on the documentation program that Preservation Dallas is heading up to organize information about each neighborhood within our city. This is a three to five year pilot program that will profile, store and make available architectural styles, history, etc. about every neighborhood in Dallas. Vickery Place will be one of the first neighborhoods targeted for this project. Beth emphasized the need for volunteers.

Daron Tapscott brought us up to date on the Conservation effort in

Vickery Place. He introduced the committee members and gave a chronological history of the Conservation activities in Vickery Place since 1997 when the board first began discussing the possibility of some type of zoning overlay for our neighborhood. (Daron reminded everyone that this month marks the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of VPNA.) Daron outlined the required steps for creating a Conservation District. He distributed a handout outlining those steps along with a map of the proposed district and a graphic of some of the characteristics and features of contributing homes in Vickery Place. The petition drive began in February of 2002. The petition will be submitted to the city within the next two weeks. Discussion followed and many technical questions were raised and answered. Everyone was encouraged to attend meetings and to give his or her input on this important issue.

The meeting ended with Shane Gillies, newest

member of Vickery Place in attendance, being awarded the door prize, a beautiful chocolate filled gift basket donated by Dallas Chocolates.

After the meeting, a table full of Valentine cookies and chocolate covered strawberries and cake tempted everyone to stay awhile and visit.

If you have questions or comments, you may reach the Vickery Place Board of Directors and the Conservation Committee by e-mailing [info@vpna.com](mailto:info@vpna.com) or calling voice mail at (214) 967-5134.

If you would like to volunteer for St. Patrick's Day Sign Assembly or for the Preservation Dallas Documentation Program, you may also contact Bruce Thomas or Beth Bently at the same e-mail address or voice mail number. ICP office phone number is (214) 670-4420.

We look forward to seeing you again in March.



## VIRTUAL NEIGHBOR SUPPORTS VICKERY PLACE

As the world gets smaller and more anxious of an uncertain future, our neighborhoods become more important to us. Vickery Place represents not only where we live, but, how we spend our energy, who we socialize with, who we trade with, and how we act in community with one another, sometimes in conflict sometimes in accord. One member of our neighborhood, albeit a 'virtual neighborhood' is Lem Bryant. Lem's company Lem.Net has hosted the Vickery Place Neighborhood Association website since January 2000, free-of-charge.

Lem's service to VPNA is as vital to our neighborhood communications as the 28 carriers who volunteer their time each month to walk door-to-door delivering the paper version of the Vickery Place Newsletter. Without those volunteers, and without Lem's gratis web hosting, VPNA would not be able to inform and communicate with residents, share ideas, trade with merchants and build coalitions with other neighborhoods without a far greater cost and with far less efficiency.

Lem grew up in Oregon City, Oregon, near Portland, and jumped into an eleven-year stint with the US Army right out of high school. About 8 years ago leaving his last tour of duty in the Republic of Panama, he landed in the Dallas area with his family of two kids, a son & a daughter.



Lem Bryant & his cat Emerald

Lem is one of those success stories made obvious by the magnitude of the demise of the telecom industry. Never mind the fact that he is an engineer in the most natural sense of the word having worked his way into a highly technical engineering career without a conventional degree, Lem went on to work with the prospering telecom company, MCI, in 1998. He worked through the merger of MCI-Worldcom and was laid off in 1999. From there he jumped over to the other telecom giant serving Worldcom, Nortel Networks. After about 18 months with Nortel, Lem went over to start-up telecom company, @Link, until finally, in May 2001, he made his part-time venture as Stone Bender Inc his full-time priority as Lem.Net, web hosting and site designer extraordinaire.

When asked if he perceived his business along the lines of the traditional cottage industry where one manages their profession from a home office, he replied in the voice of a true modern-techie, "I see myself more as a telecommuter...". As is true for many self-made entrepreneur-types, Lem offers a variety of skillsets and services beyond web hosting, such as graphic design and networking. Lem's work environment is actually quite vast. Although his 'assistant' may be the beautiful white feline, Emerald, at his home office, his 'neighborhood' stretches to Panama, to Europe, from Alaska to Florida, and, of course, Vickery Place. His sophisticated server equipment that actually represents the physical side of the VPNA website and the other members of the 'neighborhood' is in a highly secured building near the American Airlines Arena, connecting directly to the Internet backbone.

Lem was asked how in the world did he come to support Vickery Place with web hosting and has he had an opportunity to visit or live in Vickery Place? Lem remarked that our two long-time neighbors, Jodi & Matt Simons presented the opportunity some time back during their volunteer work for the neighborhood and the rest is history. Lem gratefully mentioned that all of his business has been built through word-of-mouth. He also enjoys the freedom of selecting his clients based on his own standards and concerns, including hosting another non-profit group for free, The St Mark's Singles Group, [www.sfosm.org](http://www.sfosm.org). And, no, he has not had a chance to visit Vickery Place but may attend our next General Meeting in March at Trinity Hall Pub at Mockingbird Station. Clearly, our talking and networking with one another is fundamentally important for our machines to do the same. See you at the next General Meeting!

### CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE

VPNA.org has gotten a facelift.

Some new features include:

- Conservation Information
- Online Form
- New Design

Go to [www.vpna.org](http://www.vpna.org) today!



Thank you for hosting [www.VPNA.org](http://www.VPNA.org)

## TEN EASY, NO COST WAYS TO BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

Having good neighbors starts with being a good neighbor. Sometimes, a small change of habit can mean being a better neighbor. None of these suggestions costs anything. All of them can help make VP a friendlier place.

1. **Bulky Trash:** Don't put trash out on the curb before the monthly pickup date. Doing so contributes to a trashy looking neighborhood, and could result in a fine from the City.
2. **Pooper Scooper:** Don't let your dog dump in your neighbor's yard. Carry a pooper scooper when you walk the dog. It's the law.
3. **Turn it Down!:** Keep the volume down after 10:00 PM.
4. **Don't Park in the Yard:** City code prohibits parking on an unpaved surface.
5. **Rake Your Leaves:** Bag them up for bulky trash pickup, or start a compost pile in the backyard. Don't leave them all winter to blow in your neighbor's yard or rot in the gutter.
6. **Don't Park in Front of Your Neighbor's House:** No, it's not illegal to park in front of the house next door, but it's rude to adopt that spot as your personal parking spot. Your neighbor would like to park there himself, or have that spot for his visitors.
7. **Don't Block the Sidewalk:** If you park in the driveway, don't leave your car blocking the sidewalk. Lots of people walk in VP, and no one wants to have to detour into the street. Trim your trees so that limbs don't obstruct the sidewalk.
8. **Barking Dogs:** Train your dog to not bark too much. Everyone appreciates a good watchdog. No one appreciates a dog that barks all the time.
9. **Drive Friendly:** We're all in a hurry, but take it easy in your neighborhood. Let the other person go first when parked cars clog the street. Slow down!
10. **Smile and Wave:** Smile when you meet someone walking down the street. Wave when you see your neighbor walking his dog, even if you don't know his name. Smile and give a wave of thanks when another driver lets you go first, just they way they do in small towns in Texas.



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RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED

OPEN AT 5:30 - CLOSED ON MONDAYS

## STREETSCAPE

### *Knox Henderson Bridge Takes a Beating*



When the new Knox Henderson Bridge design was unveiled during the early stages of the reconstruction of Central Expressway, the plans for lighting, planters and architectural features seemed to be a great idea. Now that the bridge is a few years old, it may be time to reassess some of the components of the design.

The brick and stone columns add a grace to the bridge, and give it a unique identity, even when passing below on Central. However, the Highway Department (TXDOT) has struggled with keeping the lights working that illuminate them at night.

For months, the bridge has been dark. Only recently have the lights been repaired. The landscaping has had mixed success, with some planters receiving too much water, and others not enough. The part of the design that has been a complete disaster, however, are the cast stone spherical bollards that line the intersection.

The intent of the bollards was to provide a visual character to the curbsides throughout the intersection. In fact, they have mainly provided a target for drunk and reckless drivers. There has hardly been a week when all of the bollards were in place. As soon as they are replaced, they are again mowed down. The broken bases left standing make the whole intersection look like Ground Zero in the Traffic Wars. TXDOT estimates that it costs the taxpayers \$450 each to replace the bollards. Perhaps it is time to replace all of them with something that a car will pass over without destroying, or, simply remove them and put brick pavers in the gaps.

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**LUCKY LIQUOR**

OPEN 10AM TO 9PM MONDAY TO SATURDAY  
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2835 North Henderson (214) 824-8456



**LOCAL FLOWER SHOP EXPANDS**

M. Bountiful has grown from its location at 2903 N. Henderson Avenue to include a satellite store at Northpark Center.

Springtime is unfolding at Dallas' couture flower shop. New looks, new scents and fresh seasonal flowers are at your fingertips. The store is featuring stunning design pieces, both traditional and contemporary, for use with M. Bountiful signature pave floral arrangements, orchids, plants, or even as home accents.



**NOW OPEN AT NORTH PARK**

**2903 N. Henderson Ave.  
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**Hours:  
Monday-Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

**With ad - 15% off flower order**

The Northpark Center store opened before Thanksgiving and will be open at least through March of 2003. As in the Henderson store, gifts, candles and other home items are on hand to bring a bit of nature into your home.

Northpark Center allows access to many of M. Bountiful's wonderful selections for extended hours and 7 days a week.

**Bonham Elementary  
March Calendar**

**March/Marzo**

- 10 Avance Program/Programa Avance 8-11am
- 11 Nutrition Classes for Parents/Clase de Nutricion para Padres 10am
- 11 Parent Conference/Conferencia para Padres
- 17-21 Spring Break/Vacaciones de Primavera
- 24 Avance Program/Programa Avance 8-11am
- 25 Nutrition Classes for Parents/Clase de Nutricion para Padres 10am
- 25 Boy Scout Meeting 3:45pm
- 31 Avance Program/Programa Avance 8-11am

**TACO SOUP**

- 1 pound ground beef
- 1 small onion chopped
- 2 cans pinto beans with jalapenos
- 2 cans hominy
- 2 cans corn
- 1 small can tomato paste
- 1 Large can crushed tomatoes
- 1 package taco seasoning

Brown meat with onion, drain and put into a large soup pot. Empty the undrained cans of beans, hominy, corn, and both tomatoes into pot. Stir in taco seasoning, and simmer on low until warmed thru. Serve with grated cheese and a dollop of sour cream!! YUMMY!!! Feeds a BUNCH!!!

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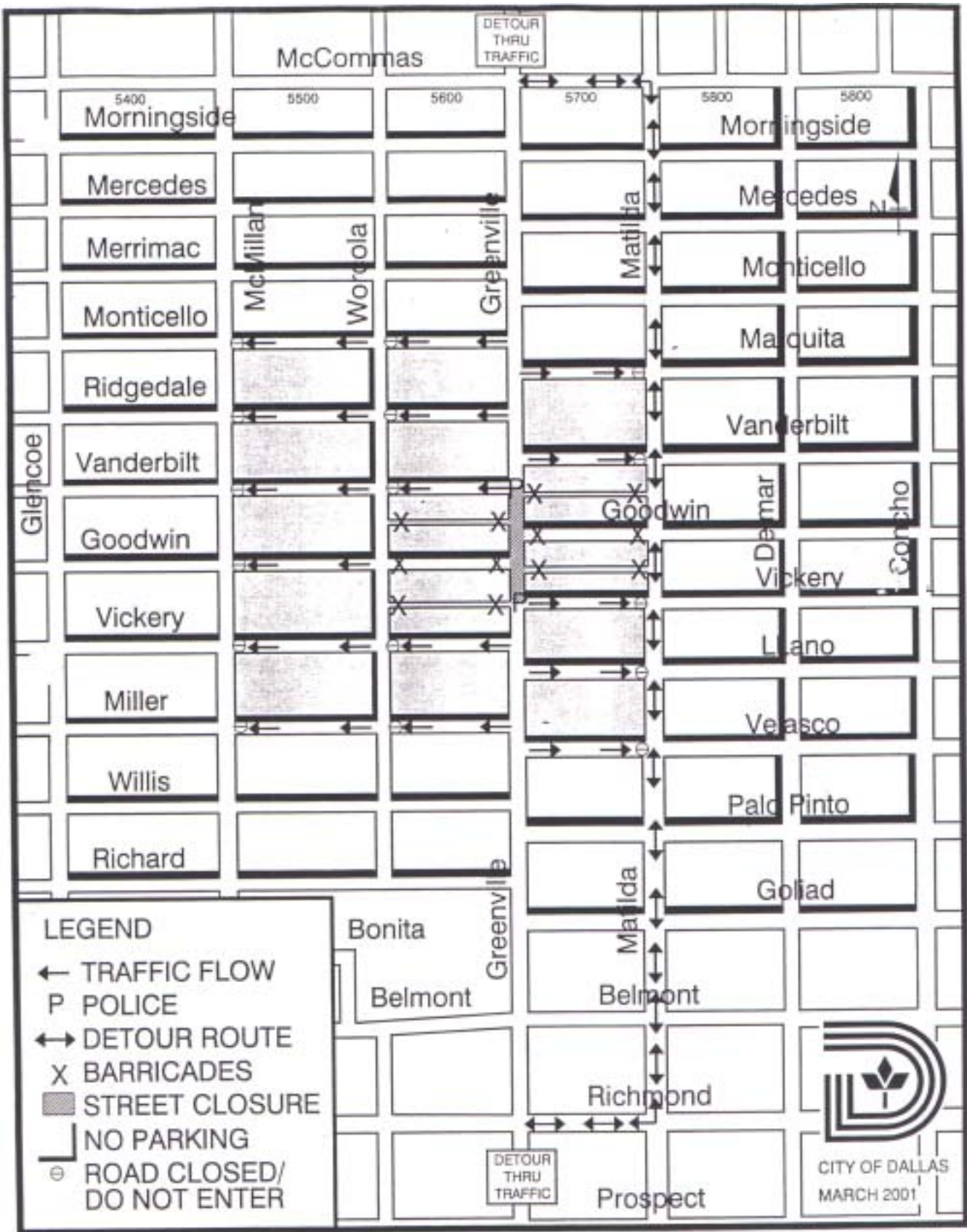
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# TRAFFIC PLAN

## ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION

## MARCH YARD OF THE MONTH

With all the freezing weather we've had, most yards are in the transition stage, so no Yard of the Month for March - I will have one picked out for April. Here are some bug facts and gardening tips.

**Beneficial Insects:** Starting in the spring I like to provide you all with information about beneficial insects you may see in your gardens. Learn how to recognize them, then leave them alone to do their work. If you spray to kill the pests, you will kill the "good bugs" too. In the early spring, one of the first things you may notice is aphids on the buds of your rose bushes. Be patient though, don't spray! Just wait, and in a few days you'll notice something that looks like this:



**Lady Beetles (Lady Bugs):** You all know and love them, but did you know that the larval stage looks like this?

That's right, the cute dome-shaped black and red bug that we recognize, overwinters in that familiar state then emerges in the spring to eat and lay eggs.

When the eggs hatch they look like tiny black "alligators" with red markings. They grow fast because they eat 500-1000 aphids in a couple of weeks. Last year, they ate all the aphids off my roses in less than a week! They then attach themselves to the leaves of plants and begin the pupal stage which last 3-12 days. The pupal looks a lot like the familiar dome shape but is firmly attached. They eventually emerge to show their shiny new domes.

**Plant:** Trees and shrubs, and finish planting the cool-season vegetable plantings. You can start sowing your warm season crops after the last killing freeze date. (Note: The average last freeze date for Dallas is March 23rd) Don't let spurts of warm day get you in a spring planting frenzy! Watch the calendar if you are thinking of planting tender annuals, freezing temps can kill them quickly.

**Fertilize:** If you did not fertilize in February, do it now with a 100% organic fertilizer.

**Prune:** Wait until AFTER spring flowering shrubs and vines have finished flowering to prune. These would include: flowering quince, forsythia, spirea, wisteria etc...

**Water:** Watch for dry areas in your garden or lawn. Water deep if it has not rained in the last couple of weeks, even though the temperature may be cool.

**Pests:** Watch for more info on beneficial bugs. Also, if you are having trouble with blackspot on your roses, use a water/baking soda spray. Blackspot is a fungus and the baking soda will take care of the problem.

### Odd Jobs:

- \* Feed and water the birds all years round
- \* Start a compost pile in your back yard using wood palettes. Put leave, grass clippings and your vegetable kitchen scraps (No meats!)
- \* Sharpen your gardening tools to get ready for spring!

Happy Gardening,  
Sandi

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