

APRIL MEETING

Date: Thursday April 10th
Time: 7:00 PM
Place: Vickery Towers at Belmont & Greenville

MEET THE CANDIDATES

On Thursday, April 10th, VPNA will host its traditional Candidates' Forum for City Council hopefuls. VP is included in two City Council districts, places Two and Fourteen. The incumbents have agreed to meet their challengers in a wide ranging discussion. The floor will be open for questions from the residents. In this mass media world, it is often difficult to meet your elected representatives face to face. This is a great opportunity to get an up-close look at all the candidates, and evaluate them first hand. All candidates who have filed for the seats have been invited. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend.

FRONT PORCH LIVING

This year's president of Vickery Place asked each board member to choose a topic, perhaps *something that he or she loves about Vickery Place*, and share it in the newsletter. There is a lot to love about Vickery Place —so no shortage of topics. But how many times have you had a first time visitor to your home, step upon your porch, look around and say, "I love this porch"? Well I do, too. I love these porches.



Other than the kitchen, I think the front porch says more about the history of our homes than any other element of the house. Remember, when our homes were built the back yard accommodated the garden and the chicken coop rather than the pool and patio, so outside relaxing was done on the front porch. Children played jacks, marbles and dolls on the porch; teenagers whiled away hours daydreaming on the swing; young lovers courted; elders waved to passerby's; housewives snapped beans and gossiped with neighbors. Friends and family gathered to enjoy the evening breeze and share the day's happenings with one another. ***A whole lot of living was done on the front porch.***
 ("FRONT PORCH" continues on page 7.)

COME BE PART OF A GROWING MOVEMENT – DISCOVER DALLAS!

Discover Dallas is an architectural survey of City of Dallas properties built prior to 1965. This survey is distinct from other architectural surveys because an all-volunteer force of neighborhood residents and other interested persons conducts it. Also, it is the only city-wide survey in America designed for the Internet.



Vickery Place has been approved as a key neighborhood in the first phase of the project. Data acquired by this survey will track how your neighborhood developed, architectural features of each property, along with historical research of the homes in Vickery Place.

Championed by our friends at Preservation Dallas, **Discover Dallas!** has been designed as a grass roots effort - YOU are who we are looking for. No prior training necessary – just eyes, ears, feet - and a heart to contribute to a legacy for Dallas.

Contact Beth Bentley at 214.821.0831 or at info@vpna.org for more details

Volume 22, Issue 4
 April 2003

Bulky Trash/Basura Abultado
 Don't Set Out Trash Before:
 Thursday, April 10th



Pick Up Week:
 April 14th - 18th

CRIME STATS

| | | |
|----------------|----------|--------------|
| Theft | 02/13/03 | 53XX Vickery |
| Vandal | 02/13/03 | 54XX Goodwin |
| Tel Harassment | 02/05/03 | 51XX Goodwin |

MARCH MEETING -A DART NIGHT OUT

The March general meeting of VPNA was something a little different from the usual. A large group of VP neighbors met at the Irish pub Trinity Hall, at Mockingbird Station, in honor of St. Patrick's Day (right). No official business was conducted. Instead, everyone had some food and drink, and enjoyed the music and fun. Old friends were greeted, and some new friends made. Many thanks to **Marius Donnelly** and staff at **Trinity Hall** for hosting the event.



Residents met at Trinity Hall for some food and refreshments.

Later in the evening, **Brian Waddle of DART** led the group in a guided tour of the CityPlace subway station (right).



Neighbors head down the escalators to the subway.

Everyone got a free pass to ride the train down to CityPlace. Brian explained how the station was built, more than a hundred feet below Central Expressway.

Trains rolled through as the tour continued from the platform, up the long escalators to the connection with the McKinney Avenue Trolley near West Village (left).

For many residents who had never visited the CityPlace station, the size and scope of the facility was a revelation. A quick trip back to Mockingbird Station completed the evening. Thanks to **Brian and DART** for an interesting trip.



Residents wait to catch the next train.

Secret Gardens and Sacred Grounds

Sponsored by Preservation Dallas

This self-guided urban tour offers connection to unique gathering spots within our urban environment. Tour sites include public, private and open spaces, as well as historic and hidden gems—an Asian garden market, a scenic cliff top, a labyrinth, a quiet cemetery, a

downtown rooftop just to name a few, and it all ends at The Farmer's Market downtown.

Cost is \$10 for Preservation Dallas members and \$15 for non-members. Reservations requested. For more information, call 214 821-3290 or go online to www.preservatiodallas.org.



Hollywood/Santa Monica Home Tour
This year's tour includes five great houses.

Saturday, April 26 and Sunday, April 27
Noon to 6:00 p.m.

For more information, e-mail info@hsmna.org, or leave your name and number on Hollywood/Santa Monica neighborhood voicemail, 214-712-0222.

Munger Place Home Tour
Saturday, April 12 & Sunday, April 13

Tour includes:
• 5100 Junius, 4917 Junius, 4811 Tremont,
• 5007 Victor, 5024 Worth

For more information, email
• www.mungerplace.com or call 214 826-6431.

ST. PATRICK'S WRAP-UP

Good Time Had By Most

Residents survived this year's Lower Greenville St. Patrick's Celebration without any major problems reported. The weather cooperated perfectly as thousands flocked throughout the afternoon to the Saturday, March 15 event. Many area residents joined in the festivities with their own parties as well. A capacity crowd caused police to close the Greenville Avenue street party to new admissions by 4:00 p.m.

Despite the large numbers, however, partygoers generally were well behaved and incidents were few. The temporary no-parking signs, assembled and placed with help of nearly twenty residents, were widely observed, keeping towing to a minimum. DART helped relieve



Police officers did not let any more people into the party after 4pm due to the large turnout.

and taxicabs were much more numerous than in years past. Police patrols, both in the afternoon and evening, also were noticeably increased over last year. Many thanks to **Deputy Chiefs Bill Turnage** (Northeast Division) and **Danny Garcia** (Central Division) for devoting the manpower necessary to ensure a safe event. Thanks also goes to the many officers, including our neighborhood ICP officers, for their hard work throughout the long day and evening.

Still, room for improvement exists. Parking continues to be a concern. Partygoers parked from Skillman to Central, exceeding the controlled parking area by several blocks. Notably, the 5200 blocks of Vickery and Goodwin, as well as sections of Laneri and Homer, were lined with cars on both sides of the street. Additionally, DART's shuttles were sometimes jammed beyond capacity, limiting the usefulness of the shuttle service. Finally, litter was noticeably present from Skillman to Central (i.e., throughout the parking area), while the bar owners currently are responsible for clean up of only a three-block area either side of Greenville.

If you noted additional problems, or have other questions or concerns about the St. Patrick's event, please pass them along to a board member as soon as possible.



Temporary NO PARKING signs were assembled and put out the day before the big party.

| | |
|--|--|
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PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE



The Amigos Project is a two-week volunteer effort bringing urban and suburban churches together to help their neighbors.

This project of the North Texas United Methodist Association is scheduled to take place **April 25-26, 2003 & May 2-3, 2003** and **three homes in Vickery Place have been selected to receive help!**

Please contact People Helping People 214-670-7323 Monday-Friday 8:15 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. to be a volunteer.

PHP volunteers provide home repair assistance by: repairing the exterior of homes, replacing broken window panes, scraping & painting exterior, repairing porches and steps, installing ramps and handrails, removing unsafe garages and sheds, removing trash and debris, etc.

We are very excited that Vickery Place was included in this volunteer effort. Please show your support and sign up to be a volunteer!

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www.firehousetx.com

RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED

OPEN AT 5:30 - CLOSED ON MONDAYS

Creamy Blue Cheese Chicken and Pasta Recipe

8 cups cooked pasta (rigatoni, penne, mostaccioli, etc)

1 teaspoon paprika

1/2 teaspoon garlic powder

1 teaspoon hot sauce

1 cup sliced celery

2 tablespoons blue cheese, crumbled

11/2 pounds boneless, skinless chicken breasts cut into bite-sized pieces

1/2 cup lowfat mayonnaise

1/2 cup lowfat blue cheese salad dressing

1 small red onion, chopped

1 cup skim milk

Prepare pasta according to package directions. Sprinkle chicken with paprika, garlic powder and salt and pepper to taste. Spray a large nonstick skillet with nonstick cooking spray and heat over medium heat until hot. Add chicken and sauté until no longer pink. Add hot sauce and stir to coat. Remove chicken from skillet. Re-spray skillet with cooking spray and heat over medium heat until hot. Add celery and onion and sauté for 2 minutes or until soft. Combine mayonnaise, blue cheese dressing and milk in a small bowl and mix well. Combine chicken, celery, onion, drained pasta and sauce. Toss to coat and heat through, stirring constantly. Sprinkle with blue cheese and serve.



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

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CLOSED SUNDAY

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STREETSCAPE

Down On The Corner

A street corner can be a lively and inviting place. At times, we have all been drawn by the urge to cross the street and see what's going on over there on that other corner. A special shop, a bright and colorful window, a unique store entrance, can all serve to make a corner into a "place to be".

The differences between a corner with good street life, and one that is dull and dreary, are sometimes subtle. The width of the sidewalk, the angle of the shade or sunlight, or a bench that invites people watching can add to the ambience. A big brightly lit window that makes you stop and look inside, a store entry that beckons you to come in, or a bit of refreshing landscaping can make a sidewalk stroll quite enjoyable. However, as obvious as these things should be to a good designer, we are sometimes left with a space that stamps out all street life. Compare two recent corner renovations on Knox Street, just a block apart.



Street Life: Knox at Cole

At the corner of Knox and Cole, at the previous location of Hoffbrau, the building owner wisely removed the makeshift patio and awning that had clogged pedestrian traffic at that spot for years (left). New brick pavers were laid into a wide sidewalk that invites arm-in-arm strolling. Large windows sparkle with merchandise, and draw your attention from across the street. The large roof overhang was wisely retained, creating shelter. Beds of flowers were planted in a pattern that does not interfere with foot traffic. This corner is greatly improved.

McKinney Avenue, as if it were an alley. A featureless brick wall dares anyone to walk along the sidewalk there. The sidewalk at the front of the store is so narrow that pedestrians must walk single file to pass. From across the street, there is nothing that beckons you to come over and see what's going on. The building is an ugly mistake that will stifle that corner for years to come. It is a classic example of why every variance request should be viewed with suspicion.

A block away, at McKinney, the bright and modern Apple Computer store shines with a gleaming new interior (below). The exterior, however, has crushed the life out of the corner. The building owner received a zoning variance that allowed him to enclose the porte cochere space and build right up to the property line, inside the visibility triangle, in an effort to maximize rentable floorspace. The design totally ignores



The Dead Zone: Knox at McKinney

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FRONT PORCHES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The front door opens right into the living room of most of our houses. The porch was intended to be the entry-way in to our home. The front porch was designed to be used as additional living space just as the backyard deck is billed as entertainment space in contemporary homes. Many an Easter, Mother's Day or other holiday has found my family ending the day sipping wine or iced tea on my front porch.

Sitting on the porch makes me feel peaceful and centered—a little nostalgic. It's like a quiet blessing. I think the porch is dear to everyone who grew up in the South. As a child, I must have spent hours on my grandmother's front porch. Like a fort, it was a space to see out and view the world from the safety of your own territory. Believing it a safe haven, I often call out to my own grandchildren today, "Don't get off the porch."

Vickery Place is a neighborhood of front porches. We have some of the most beautiful and inviting porches in all of Dallas. Swings, rockers, and settees adorn our porches. All say, "Come, sit, be blessed."

~ Shelia Hoffman



Bonham Elementary April Calendar

April/Abril

- 7 Avance Program / Programa de Avance 8-11 am
- 8 Nutrition Class for Parents/Clase de Nutricion para padres 10 am
- 8 Boy Scout Meeting 3:45 pm
- 14 Avance Program/Programa de Avance 8-11 am
- 15 Nutrition Class for Parents/Clase de Nutricion para padres 10 am
- 15 Boy Scout Meeting 3:45 pm
- 17 PTA Meeting / Junta de PTA 6:00 pm
- 21 Avance Program / Programa de Avance 8-11 am
- 22 Boy Scout Meeting 3:45 pm
- 23 Pre-Kinder Round-Up (registration)
Matriculacion de Pre Kinder 9:00am - 2:00pm
- 28 Avance Program/Programa de Avance 8-11 am
- 29 TAKS Math Test / Prueba de Matematicas de TAKS
- 29 Boy Scout Meeting 3:45 pm
- 30 TAKS Math Test / Prueba de Matematicas de TAKS

APRIL YARD OF THE MONTH

April's YOM is the home of Judy Walgren at 5418 Richard Ave. Judy has owned her 1927 home since 1996 and is currently renting it to Barrett and Lisa Smith for the past 2 years.

The garden at this house reminds me of my own. It's filled with perennials, a lot of them Texas native plants, or with plants that are adapted to our heat and dry conditions. This is the type of garden that's better viewed up close, rather than from your car.



5418 Richard Ave.

The reason is that it's a personal garden, full of the gardener's favorite – each chosen by her...stop by ...maybe you'll leave with a new favorite plant in mind for your garden.

The varieties, too many to mention them all, include: A massive flowering rosemary, Mexican heather, "front porch" peach tree and a Texas sage as anchor plants. The beds are full of cone flowers, white-flowering candytuft, iris', gerber daisies and lamb's ears...and the list goes on.

At the time of this writing, spring is officially here! Let the bed prep and the planting begin!

Plant: Turf grass (seed or sod), roses and there's lots of beautiful seasonal (annual) color in the nurseries – have a look. Warm season veggies like tomatoes, melons, okra, squash, beans etc.. can be planted now. Perfect time to start a herb garden, even in a large pot.

Fertilize: Summer-flowering shrubs and roses. Use and organic fish emulsion/ seaweed fertilizer (pre-mixed w/ very little smell) for outstanding growth and flowers.

Prune: Spring-blooming vines and shrubs immediately after they bloom.

Water: Deeply and infrequently. Don't forget about your potted plants that can dry out long before your other plants. Tip: Do you have blackspot on roses? The main reason why most develop blackspot is from the sprinkler hitting the leaves instead of it being watered at the ground level. The best way to water roses is to set a hose at its base and let it soak.

Email me with questions, or send me pictures of your garden (front or back) and we'll feature it here. Write to sandimholmes@yahoo.com

Happy Gardening,

Sandi



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THE CHOCOLATE THAT
MAKES A DIFFERENCE