



Vickery Place Neighborhood NEWS

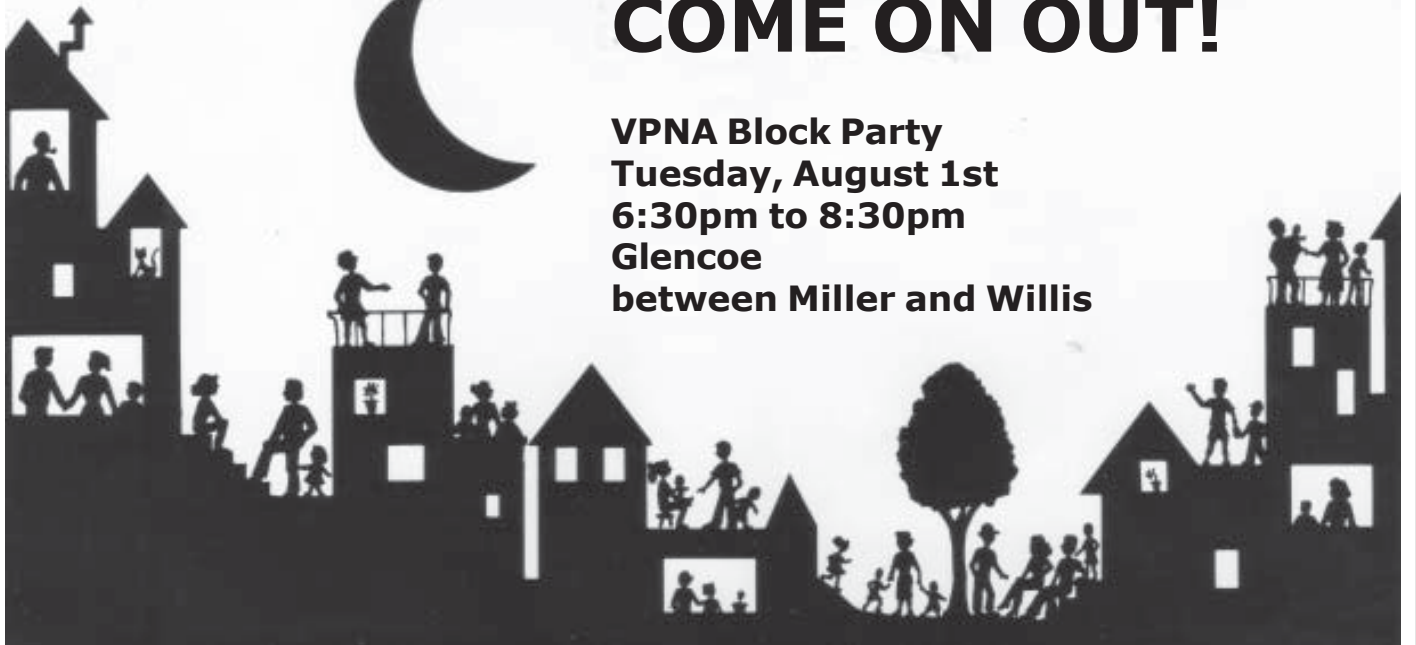
GREENVILLE-BELMONT-HENDERSON-CENTRAL-GOODWIN

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COME ON OUT!

VPNA Block Party
Tuesday, August 1st
6:30pm to 8:30pm
Glencoe
between Miller and Willis



It is the Annual VPNA **National Night Out Against Crime Block Party**. Every year, on the first Tuesday in August neighborhoods around the country sponsor similar events to foster camaraderie between residents and show support for a crime-free neighborhood.

There will be entertainment for all ages. Face painting and the ever popular bounce house will entertain the kiddies. Last years hit, the Dunk Tank, will be back so all of you big kids, bring a towel. Local band **Eight Arms to Hold You** (currently playing at Club Dada) will perform the fab 4 Beatle favorites. Representatives from the Dallas Police Department (including the Canine Patrol and the Mounted Police) along with local civic leaders will be on hand to provide tips on crime prevention and personal safety. Food and drink will be plentiful and raffle tickets will win you great prizes. The event is free of charge and open to all Vickery Place residents, friends and families. Food, drink and raffle tickets will be available at a small charge. This is a terrific family event and we hope to see you at this year's National Night Out!

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Greenville
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Stoney's
Terelli's
Whole Foods

Volume 25, Issue 8
August 2006



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

Pick Up Week:
August 14 - 18

THE WRITING IS ON THE WALL – July General Meeting recap

Our July general meeting was focused on graffiti in and around our neighborhood and its abatement. The City of Dallas defines graffiti as any marking, including but not limited to any inscription, slogan, drawing, painting, symbol, logo, name, character or figure that is made in any manner on property without the owner's permission.

Sandy Graham from Peak's Suburban Historic Neighborhood presented an informative slide show discussing the difference between gang graffiti and tagging, both undesirable in our neighborhood. Sandy is very involved with the East Dallas Graffiti Abatement program and went through the steps of coordinating a graffiti abatement project, including man-power and materials needed, and City requirements. Even though Sandy did not feel we had a gang problem within Vickery Place, she suggested abatement as a good way to curb any such activity and rid the neighborhood of unsightly markings.

To report graffiti, call 311 or submit a report via the City web-site, www.dallascityhall.com/html/3-1-1.html. If it is on public property, it is the City's responsibility to remove it or replace a street sign. If it is on your property or private property, it is the owner's responsibility to remove the graffiti—failure to do so

may result in a citation from the City. If you see it on your neighbor's property, try to contact the owner first—they may be unaware of its presence and this will give them an opportunity to remove it.

ICP Officers Keith Allen and Steve Catina were both on hand to update us on any crimes happening in and around VP. As mentioned before, with the pervasive amount of construction taking place today in Vickery Place, it is difficult to know which trucks and persons belong in the neighborhood. **KEEP YOUR EYES AND EARS OPEN!** Call 911 to report any out of place activity—the police cannot detect a pattern unless incidents are reported. The discussion also led to code compliance, which is not only unattractive but sometimes can be associated with criminal activity—again, contact 311 to report any residences out of code.

Vickery Place resident Jenn Brown, who is now the membership manager at the



Jenn Brown & Beth Bentley

Baylor Tom Landry Health and Wellness Center, provided nutritious "goodie" bags for all who attended, along with door prizes consisting of T-shirts, 1 month and 3 month passes to the Center!

Thanks to all for making this an informative neighborhood meeting.



Officer Steve Catina, Sandy Graham, VP residents Deborah & Ken Adams and girls



Door prize winner Mark Rieves with wife Priscilla



JUDICIAL CONTESTS FOR VPNA VOTERS ON THE NOVEMBER BALLOT

There will be approximately 60 judicial contests on the Dallas County ballot this November. When both the Dallas County District Attorney contest (where there is no incumbent running) and the Texas Attorney General contest are added to the judicial contests, it is easy to see why the November ballot has the potential to shape the prosecutorial and judicial systems in Dallas County for years to come.

TEXAS COURTS: AN OVERVIEW

The Texas court system consists of a Supreme Court, which is the highest state appellate court for civil matters; a Court of Criminal Appeals, which is the highest state appellate court for criminal matters; fourteen Courts of Appeals, which have intermediate appellate jurisdiction in both civil and criminal cases; and four levels of trial courts. The Supreme Court and the Appeals Courts have a total of 15 judicial slots to be voted on in Dallas County this November.



The first of the four levels of trial courts are the district courts, which, in Dallas County, specialize in civil, criminal, family law, or juvenile cases. The geographical area served by each individual district court is established by the specific statute creating that court. Each district court has one judge. There are 33 county-wide district court judicial contests on the ballot in November.

The second level of trial courts is the County Court-at-Law. Each of the 254 counties in Texas has a county court presided over by a county judge. To relieve the docket congestion of this single “constitutional” county court, the Legislature has established county courts at law and statutory probate courts in many counties with large populations. There are 18-county-wide County Court-at-Law judicial contests on ballot in November.

The third level of trial courts is the Justice of the Peace Court. Each county is required to have at least one justice of the peace court. The most populous counties may have as many as sixteen. These courts also serve as small claims courts. There are two J.P. contests for VPNA residents to vote on.

Finally, the fourth trial level established by the Legislature is the municipal courts in each incorporated city within the State. There are no Municipal Court judicial contests relevant to VPNA this November.

Note: Speaking as an Early Voting election worker, I am glad to see voters bringing in their list of preferred candidates, or what election workers call a “Cheat Sheet.” Because there are so many judges and justices on the November ballot, I’d recommend every voter seriously consider bringing their own list. The ballot is a long one in November; if you plan on sharing a list with someone else, then expect your time at the precinct to be twice as long as if each had their own list.

~Pamela Thomas



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DOG DAYS OF SUMMER



PROTECT YOUR DOG FROM THE DOG DAYS OF SUMMER

Dog Days is the name for the most sultry period of summer, from about July 3 to August 11, except here in Dallas where it is surely a bit longer. Named in early times by observers in countries bordering the Mediterranean, the period was reckoned as extending from 20 days before to 20 days after the conjunction of Sirius (the dog star) and the sun.

During the dog days and always make sure that your pets have plenty of fresh, cool, clean, water available at all times when they are outdoors. Make sure their water bowl is in the shade. (this probably means moving the bowl as the sun changes). Make an

ice block by freezing a plastic container filled with water and popping it into their bowl. Make sure they have access to plenty of shade throughout the day.

Indoor pets. When you let them outside they are not acclimated just as we are not having been indoors with the air-conditioner, so set a timer or similar to remind you how long they have been outdoors.

Never, ever leave your dog in a parked car during the heat of summer.

Make sure that you give them their monthly Heartworm treatment. Some of the Heartworm pharmaceutical companies are now sending you an email to remind you when it is time to treat. Ask your vet to sign you up.

If summer vacation will include your dog, have a temporary tag made with your destination information and attach it to his/her collar so that someone could find you in the event that your dog gets lost while traveling. If your plans include hiking or camping, make sure you are aware of the tick population. This is critical for you and your pet. If your dog is crate trained, a portable collapsible crate, lightweight and easy to assemble is a great traveling companion. Crating your dog in a hotel/motel room when you are out to lunch or dinner prevents housekeeping or maintenance from inadvertently letting your animal out of the room.

NORTH HAVEN Gardens

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 8/20 1:30 "Tree Conservation" Perfect topic for heavily tree'd areas.

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MAY CRIME STATS:

CRIME	DATE	TIME	ADDRESS	CRIME	DATE	TIME	ADDRESS
AUTO THEFT	04/30/06		26XX MADERA	VANDAL	05/15/06		54XX RICHARD
THEFT	05/01/06		51XX MILLER	THEFT	05/15/06		52XX WILLIS
AUTO THEFT	05/02/06		56XX RICHARD	THEFT	05/16/06		28XX HENDERSON
THEFT	05/08/06		51XX WILLIS	BURGLARY	05/16/06		52XX BONITA
BURGLARY	05/10/06		52XX RICHARD	VANDAL	05/19/06		55XX MILLER
ROBBERY	05/12/06		22XX GREENVILLE	THEFT	05/23/06		56XX BELMONT
THEFT	05/12/06		19XX HENDERSON	OTHERASLT	05/23/06		56XX BELMONT
THEFT	05/12/06		52XX WILLIS	VANDAL	05/25/06		053XX BELMONT
TEL HRSSMT	05/14/06		24XX HENDERSON	OTHERASLT	05/27/06		19XX GREENVILLE



WHEN THE LIVING IS EASY

“Sitting on our front porch connects us with our neighborhood and community,” quotes the July issue of *Southern Living Magazine*. The article also lists tips for getting the most living space from your porch.

Vickery Place is one of the largest neighborhoods in North Texas featuring homes with front porches big enough for outdoor living and entertaining.

To accommodate people and furniture comfortably, the minimum depth should be 6 feet. Eight feet is recommended and 10 feet is ideal.

Decorate the porch as you would a living room. Choose weather resistant fabric and place colorful cushions and soft pillows on furniture and swings. Sit ferns, flowers and potted plants all around.

Use your porch for relaxing with a good book and for entertaining with family and friends. Not everyone is fortunate enough to have a big front porch so take advantage of yours.

Pictured above is Jeanine Baisch and Mom Sue Brown enjoying Jeanine's front porch. Mrs. Brown is visiting from Saline, Michigan

Custom photo cards:

- Birth announcements
- Party invitations
- Shower invitations
- Save the Date cards

PAISLEY PAPER DESIGNS

www.paisleypaperdesigns.com
 VPNA resident - Jennifer Bryarly
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PASTA WITH FRESH TOMATO AND BASIL

- 2-1/2 pounds ripe tomatoes at room temperature
- 1-1/2 cups loosely packed fresh basil at room temperature
- 1/3 cup fine quality imported olive oil
- 3 garlic cloves
- 2 Tablespoons fresh parsley
- salt and pepper, to taste
- 1 pound linguine, fettuccine or favorite pasta



Process all ingredients except pasta in a food processor. Set this sauce aside. Cook pasta, boiling approximately seven minutes, until al dente. Drain. Place in a large bowl and pour sauce over it. Toss and serve immediately. For variety, add other vegetables from

the garden—slightly sauté while pasta is cooking and add with the sauce. Serves 6 - 8. ~ Rick Bentley

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YARD OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to Kim Gaytan, winner of Vickery Place Yard of the Month for August! As the Yard of the Month winner Kim receives a \$25 Gift Certificate from North Havens Garden at 7700 Northaven Road.

Kim's lovely home, built in 1931, is located at 5241 Bonita, where she has lived for the past three years with her Great Dane,

Rhemus. She is a native Texan with a love for outdoor living, camping, boating and snowboarding. Rhemus is always up for an adventure and likes to go along for the ride too.

The Texas Star is Kim's favorite decorating motif. Her custom-made front door, adorable decorative windmill and iron gate show her pride for the Lone Star State. She got her start in gardening during childhood, helping her mother who lives in New Braunfels. The windmill in Kim's front yard is a replica of the one in her mother's garden.

Across the front yard the beds, lined with natural stone and retaining walls, are planted with mondo grass (liriope), dianthus, variegated pittosporum, youpon holly and yucca. Walking up the flagstone sidewalk, you'll see beds on each side of the steps along the front of the deck containing holly, youpon holly, pittosporum (regular and variegated), Texas sage, dusty miller, and euonymus. As the bed wraps towards the driveway to the east it is filled with boxwood, chrysanthemum (which came back from last year!) and ornamental garlic—named in the Old Farmer's Almanac as one of the best bulbs for naturalizing (<http://www.almanac.com/garden/bulbs/naturalizing.php>). On the front deck large containers are planted with junipers and boxwood.

NORTH HAVEN
Gardens

Kim loves color, texture and variation in her garden, though admittedly the color is a struggle in this heat. Fortunately for her, dianthus has proven steadfast in blooming even during the Texas summer.

~Selena Urquhart



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