

FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING

Date: Thursday, February 9
 Time: 7:00 PM
 Place: Vickery Towers at Belmont & Greenville Avenue

Come celebrate our birthday and hear this delightful speaker. Enjoy refreshments provided by neighborhood restaurant Cuba Libre and birthday cake compliments of Vickery Towers.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY VICKERY PLACE!

Vickery Place turns 95 years old in 2006 and the neighborhood association begins its 25th year this month. To mark these milestones, we've planned a birthday celebration for the February general meeting.

Dan Linn will be our guest speaker. Mr. Linn is the Executive Assistant for Evaluation and Development for the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, an East Dallas resident



"With the first TV on the block, our home was the gathering place for neighborhood kids."

and a native Dallasite. He will give us a first hand account of what it was like in Vickery Place in the *GOOD OLE' DAYS*. Born in 1946 at Florence Nightingale Hospital (now Baylor Medical Center) a short drive in the family's '39 Plymouth down Gaston and Ross Avenues delivered Danny to 5435 Miller in Vickery Place where he lived with his mom, dad and brother, Buddy, until 1964.



10 yr. old Dan Linn explores Vickery Place.

Danny grew up in Vickery Place. More specifically, he grew up in Vickery Place in the fifties, an era in history seemingly made just for kids. From *Leave it to Beaver* to *Happy Days* this was a time of innocence in America. The war was over, Ike was president, and jobs were plentiful. It was a simple time when kids could explore their world from dawn to dusk without the fears that accompany the safety of children today, and most of us did just that. On foot or bike, we knew our neighborhood like no one else.

With humor and nostalgia, wisdom and wit, Danny shares his memories of Vickery Place. In an article written for the North Dallas High School Alumni Association, *75Years of Memories*, he credits Vickery Place with having shaped his life and the life of many others.

In 1961 Danny began his high school career at North Dallas High and says it became harder to keep him within the boundaries of Vickery Place. In 1964 Danny left home for North Texas University and another new experience. 'Life was good that freshman year,' quips Danny. 'I had a 1965 Ford Mustang, a girl friend still home at North Dallas High School and I was attending a college that *Playboy Magazine* had rated as one of the best party schools in America'.

As you can see a fun evening is in store. Come join us *at the hop* for cake, ice cream and a *stroll* down memory lane with a special *twist*. Bring family, friends and neighbors. We'll have a real good time!
 ~Shelia Huffman

Volume 25, Issue 2
 February 2006



Bulky Trash/Basura Abultado
Don't Set Out Trash Before:
 Thursday, February 9

Pick Up Week:
 February 13 - 17



Vickery Towers Activities Director John Grozis chats with neighbors Will & Anna Short at Jan. meeting.

JANUARY GENERAL MEETING RECAP

2006 was off to a good start with a well attended first meeting. We welcomed John Grozis, new Activities Director for Vickery Towers and Central Division's ICP (Interactive Community Policing) Officer Keith Allen was our guest speaker for the evening. The meeting focused on crime and safety in our neighborhood. Officer Allen addressed residents' questions and concerns. Issues in the neighborhood included crime rates, response to 911 calls, and speeding through the neighborhood.

The overall crime rates for Central Division have improved from 2004 – 2005. Unfortunately, Vickery Place is one of the areas that did not follow this overall trend. We did see a 65% decrease in violent crimes from 2004 to 2005 in our neighborhood, but the overall rate of crimes increased. As we see more construction in the area, there is a greater chance for an increase in the number of property crimes in our neighborhood. Central Division's ICP team is working hard to make sure Vickery Place improves its rates to resemble other areas of the city. The neighborhood association can implement an expanded patrol program at an extra cost to residents. The VPNA board and Crime Committee are investigating the costs and benefits of implementing an expanded patrol for the area.

As residents, there are actions that we can take to assist police in making our neighborhood a safer place:

- Report all suspicious activity and theft (including animal theft) to the police. This helps alert police to particular problems and allows them to notice trends in the area. Unreported crimes/activity gives the illusion that the neighborhood is safer than it actually may be.
- Keep your property well lit at night. A well-lit area is a deterrent for criminals looking to steal property under the cover of darkness.
- Monitor the city streetlights close to your home. Keep trees trimmed, and if a streetlight is not working you can call 311 and report the matter, contact Encore (TXU) directly, or contact our ICP team officer.
- Get to know your neighbors. Knowing your neighbors creates an information network that helps residents report suspicious activity. Neighbors that are familiar with each other's usual routines can easily identify activity that is out of the ordinary.
- Use 911 for emergencies. Be aware that 911 operators are trained primarily by and for fire and rescue. If you require the police for an emergency, give the operator your information, state clearly and firmly that you feel you are in eminent danger and need the police immediately. You may contact ICP for follow up and feedback.

Speeding through the neighborhood has also been an increasing problem. Commuters and residents use our streets as a short cut for easy access to US 75, often forgetting that they are in a neighborhood and ignore speed limit signs. Speed bumps help slow traffic, but are not always possible in all areas due to the fact some roads are designated as emergency routes. Other alternatives include increasing patrols by traffic officers. Five roads were identified as particularly problematic for speeders: Greenville Ave. (particularly in the hours around 2:00 am), Richard (during commuter hours), Willis (during commuter hours), Vickery (during commuter hours), McMillian (various days & hours).

Crime prevention and safety are a primary concern of many of our residents. Officer Keith Allen does an excellent job in our community helping residents maintain a safe neighborhood. He is always willing to answer questions and provide us with helpful information. Officer Allen can be reached by phone at 214.670.0659 or email at Keith.Allen@dpd.dallascityhall.com. ~Bill Gustashaw



Welcome, new neighbors! Ethan & Kristen Boothe proudly show off 4 week old Austin at the January meeting

GENESIS OF THE VICKERY PLACE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

~ Gary Lawler, December 2005

Following the 1980 census, the City of Dallas adjusted the map boundaries for census tracts eligible to receive Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds (federal tax dollars returned to cities for certain projects.) These census tracts had to consist of 50% or more residents at or below a certain low-income level. Vickery Place was at 51%, just enough to be included.

The City identified about a dozen neighborhoods within the overall CDBG map area that would receive special emphasis in receiving the CDBG funds. These were neighborhoods undergoing natural revitalization, and the City wanted to boost that revitalization. One of those neighborhoods was called "North Henderson" by the City, and the boundaries of "North Henderson" were the same as Vickery Place's boundaries today (in fact, that's how the boundaries were determined.)

In late 1981, the City sent out questionnaires to Vickery Place residents telling them about potential CDBG-funded programs for the area and asking for residents' preferences and priorities. That December, they sent out a second notice that they had tabulated the questionnaire responses and had determined that the area's priorities included crime, code enforcement, and new sidewalks. The notice also invited residents to a community meeting in January 1982 to give input on the City's findings.

The January meeting was held at the Greenville Avenue Christian Church (Greenville and Llano) and was well-attended. The crowd was probably between 200 and 300, filling every seat and standing almost two-deep around the walls. It was not a happy group. They were upset with the City and with conditions within the neighborhood. For example, one resident said he bought his daughter a tricycle the month before for Christmas and she couldn't ride it because the sidewalks were too buckled and broken. Another said the City was erroneously telling residents to call the Police Dept. about cars parked in yards, instead of calling Code Enforcement.

To me, the complaints were not a bad thing. They were cries from people who felt passionately about where they lived. They were people who did not want to move away from bad conditions, but instead wanted to stay and improve those conditions, and they wanted the City to help them with that.

At that meeting, City Planner Marvin Krause said that neighborhoods that have neighborhood organizations tend to do better than those that don't, and that he was passing around a pad for those interested in forming such a group to give their names, phone numbers and addresses. About 35 people signed up.

That was January 28, 1982, and that is the genesis of the North Henderson Neighborhood Association, which changed its name to the Vickery Place Neighborhood Association in 1983.

Editor's note: Following the January 1982 meeting Vickery Place residents met in February and March to continue organizing the association. At one of those subsequent meetings it was determined that a leader was needed and Gary Lawler was elected as chair for the association and served in that position until the fall of 1984. This was prior to the by-laws being written and adopted so the title of president was not bestowed, but for historical purposes, Gary Lawler was the first leader of the Vickery Place Neighborhood Association. Although Gary has moved from Vickery Place he still lives near-by and remains a friend of the neighborhood.



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DOES IT SOMETIMES SEEM AS IF THERE IS NO PLACE TO PARK?

The “resident only” parking signs within the neighborhood and the “tow away zone” signs along the retail area are a good indication that parking has for sometime been a problem in the Lower Greenville neighborhoods. Here are a few parking tips to help prevent a fine or your car being impounded. With St. Patrick’s Day around the corner, it is also a good time to give some thought to inconsiderate parking.

- Never park your car on an unpaved surface such as an empty lot within the neighborhood. It is against the law.
- Never leave your car parked on the street for more than 24 hours without moving it. It can be tagged and towed.
- Do not park in a place marked as a tow away zone unless you are patronizing the establishment designated for the parking spot. These lots and spaces are watched and cars *ARE* towed. If you have ever returned to the place where you left your car to find it missing, you know the hassle and expense necessary to reclaim your car.
- Do not park in a “resident’s only” parking space. This is a tow zone.
- Do not park in front of a curb containing bulky trash. If your car is blocking the bulk trash, the sanitation trucks cannot remove it with the automated truck and must remove it manually, thus delaying city work. If the automated claw were used it could cause damage to your car.
- Same goes for regular trash if it is picked up on the curb rather than in the alley. The sanitation truck cannot reach the garbage can, so if it is trash pick up day, do not park in front of a trash can.
- Never block a driveway with your car. The resident can notify the police and that is immediate reason to have a car towed.
- Don’t park in front of your neighbor’s house and ask your visitors to show the same consideration. It may not be against the law, but it is rude.
- If you park in the drive-way, pull your car up so as not to block the sidewalk. Again, it is inconsiderate to the dog walking, stroller pushing, exercising pedestrian trying to use the sidewalk.
- Try to park your household cars in your drive-way. This helps prevent your car from being broken into and it helps keep our residential streets clear and visible which add to the safety of our neighborhood.

~Shelia Huffman



DECEMBER 2005 CRIME STATS:

CRIME	DATE	ADDRESS	PREM	STOLEN
BURGL	12/17/05	53XX MILLER	RES	RADIO/STEREO
THEFT	12/22/05	28XX HENDERSON	OTHER	RADIO/STEREO
THEFT	12/17/05	52XX MILLER	RES	AUTO PARTS
THEFT	12/26/05	54XX MILLER	OTHER	AUTO PARTS
THEFT	11/30/05	51XX RICHARD	OTHER	AUTO PARTS
THEFT	11/30/05	51XX WILLIS	OTHER	AUTO PARTS
THEFT	11/30/05	51XX WILLIS	OTHER	CLOTHING
ASLT	12/30/05	53XX BONITA	RES	
ASLT	12/14/05	51XX WILLIS	RES	
VANDAL	12/28/05	20XX HENDERSON	RES	
VANDAL	12/24/05	22XX HENDERSON	RES	
VANDAL	12/22/05	21XX MADERA	RES	
VANDAL	12/07/05	54XX MILLER	RES	
VANDAL	11/30/05	51XX RICHARD	OTHER	
VANDAL	12/20/05	52XX WILLIS	RES	



LOWER GREENVILLE LANDMARK (updated)

John's Cafe - moved to 10970 Plano Road
 Cox's Locks - moved to 1927 Skillman @ Oram
 (214-827-lock)
 Pure Cafe - purerawcafe.com
 Avant is closed for good.

Camp Wolfgang, a non-profit shelter in North Texas for German Shepherds, started by founder Wallace Swanson, with ONE SPECIFIC MISSION: To rescue and care for German Shepherd Dogs in need, until they can be placed in loving homes.

If you're thinking about adopting a new addition to the family, please call Camp Wolfgang today!

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Primary Elections Quickly Approaching

The March 7 Republican and Democrat primary elections are quickly approaching. The winners of the primary contests will stand in the general election in November. Most federal and state offices are on the ballot, along with many county offices.

The number of contested primary elections has increased greatly over recent elections, with highly competitive races in both parties. The “marquis race” in Dallas County for both parties is likely to be the District Attorney contest. In each primary, three candidates are competing to replace retiring D.A. Bill Hill. Republican candidates (by order of ballot position) include (1) Toby Shook, (2) Dan Wyde, and (3) Vickers “Vic” L. Cunningham. The Democrat challengers are (1) B.D. Howard, (2) Larry Jarrett, and (3) Craig Watkins.

Other elections likely to spawn numerous yard signs in the neighborhood include a lively contest in the Republican primary for Constable (Precinct 3). This race has attracted four candidates: (1) Michael Orozco, (2) Ray Skinner, (3) Ben Adamcik, and (4) Vince Zubras. Because there is no Democrat running for this office, the Republican primary winner will take the place of retiring Constable Rick Richardson. (Thanks Rick for providing those extra constables for the St. Patrick’s Day events!).

On the Democratic side, the race for state representative features two candidates, Jack Borden and Tom Malin. The winner earns the right to take on incumbent Republican Dan Branch for the 108th House seat.

After voting in the primary, consider also attending your party precinct convention. Although everyone has heard of the national political conventions, few people realize that as part of every primary election, both parties hold mini “precinct conventions” beginning at 7:30 p.m., shortly after the polls close. The precinct conventions elect delegates to district conventions, which in turn elect delegates to each party’s state convention (and from there to the national convention during presidential election years). Additionally, resolutions can be introduced at each convention level, the best of which are incorporated into a platform at the next level, all the way up to the national party platform. Attending a precinct convention is a great way to get involved in the political party of your choice. The only qualification for attending a precinct convention is to vote in your party’s primary.



Early voting for the primary election begins February 20 and closes March 3. During early voting, you may vote at any of the regional polling locations spread throughout the county. Vickery Place resident Pamela Thomas (Goodwin Ave.) will be serving as the early voting election judge for the nearby Park Cities early voting site (location yet to be determined).

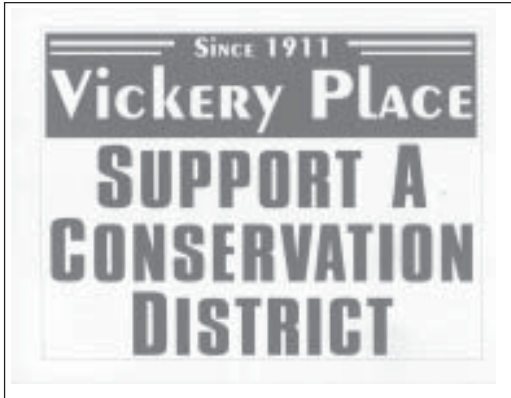
If you wait until March 7, you may vote only at the polling location in your precinct. Note that on March 7 (but not during early voting) Republicans and Democrats will likely have different polling locations, so be sure to consult the newspaper to confirm the location. Whether voting early or on March 7, you may always vote with a driver’s license or other appropriate identification; you never need your voter registration card. You may also participate in your party precinct convention regardless of whether you vote early or on March 7.

Regardless of how you voted in the past, you may vote in either the Republican or Democrat primary, but not both! Additionally, while we hesitate to dissuade anyone from voting, we should mention that if you are a big fan of independent gubernatorial candidates Kinky Friedman or Carole Keeton Strayhorn, you might want to sit out the primary. Immediately after the primary elections conclude (including runoffs, if any), both independents will be seeking the nearly 50,000 signatures necessary to obtain a spot on the November ballot. Signatures must be from registered voters who did not vote in one of the party primaries.

In a lightly attended primary election, any election may turn on only a few votes. This makes turnout from Vickery Place all the more important. In this, and every election, show our elected representatives that **Vickery Place Votes!**
~ Bruce Thomas

CONSERVATION SURVEY SAYS...

In the latter part of 2005, the City of Dallas Planning Dept. mailed out a survey to residents in the proposed Conservation District which listed a variety of standards for new construction or major remodeling that could be incorporated into its CD ordinance. At the November Community Meeting, the results of the survey were reviewed in addition to a hand vote taken of those present. Although many of the standards were a clear-cut preference of the majority of residents, the specifics still need to be fine tuned. The CD ordinance is a work in progress—at each community meeting we will hone the particulars of the ordinance until a final draft is crafted. Below are the results of the survey and hand vote:



- Height – an absolute height to the ridge of the roof line, 30'
- Front Setback – more than the 25 ft. standard, average of the original homes on the block
- Side Setback - 5' /10' on one side or the other
- Lot Coverage – less than the 45% standard, 40%
- Stories – 1 to 2, depending on the style
- Architectural Style – original to the neighborhood
- Building Materials – regulate portion visible from the street
- Garage Location – to the rear of the house
- Driveways – no circular
- Front Yard Coverage – 30% non-plant life
- Front Porch – required

Some other characteristics residents would like to see in the CD ordinance for new construction include: Wood Windows, Pitch of Roof, Majestic Trees, No Turrets, Grading/Drainage, and a Demolition Standard.

City staff have been in the neighborhood analyzing the area and taking measurements of the built environment (front/side setbacks & height of homes), to give us a better understanding of the prevailing standards. Their findings will be reviewed at the 3rd community meeting on January 30, 2006. Together we can decide the look of future development in Vickery Place.

The blocks in the current proposed conservation district include 5300 & 5400 Goodwin and Willis, 5300, 5400, 5500 & 5600 Vickery and Richard, 5300, 5400 & 5500 Miller. If you have questions, concerns or would like a 'Support A Conservation District' yard sign, please email info@vpna.org or call Beth 214 821-0831.

~Beth Bentley

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HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

TEXAS CHOCOLATE SHEET CAKE

Many of you enjoyed this delicious cake prepared by Christine Haddock at the November Pot Luck Dinner-- for all you chocolate lovers, here is the recipe just in time for Valentine's Day!

1 cup water	2 cups sugar
2 sticks unsalted butter	2 eggs
3 Tablespoons Cocoa	½ cup buttermilk
2 cups flour	1 teaspoon soda

Bring water, butter, & cocoa to a boil & mix well. Beat next five ingredients for 2 minutes at medium speed with electric mixer. Blend well with butter-cocoa-water mixture. Pour into (12x16x1/2inch) greased & floured sheet pan. Bake at 375 degrees for 11 to 13 minutes or until done. Don't over-cook!



Chocolate Icing:

3 tablespoons cocoa	1 pound powdered sugar
6 tablespoons buttermilk	1 teaspoon vanilla
1 stick unsalted butter	2 cups chopped toasted pecans

Bring to a boil the cocoa, buttermilk & butter. Combine with powdered sugar and vanilla. Beat until smooth. Add chopped toasted pecans. Ice cake and cut into squares to serve.



**LOVE IS IN
THE AIR...**



LILY LEBLANC

Lilia Jean LeBlanc was born Jan 23rd, 2006 at 1:29 in the afternoon. She weighed 7lbs, 15 ozs. and was 19 ½ inches long. Pictured are proud parents Eric & Tommie and big brother Ethan.



SAMMY GUSTASHAW

Samantha Grace Gustashaw was born Thursday Jan 26th, 2006 at 7:49 am. She weighed in at 7 lbs, 9 oz and was 19 ¾ in long. This is the first baby for proud parents Bill and Sarah.

HANDS ON HISTORY

Preserving Family History, Telling Your Stories, January 21, 2006, 1:00-3:00--an informal workshop for children and adults. Everyone has a story to tell. We all have our own living histories and have been with others who have wonderful personal histories to share. All we have to do is ask. The second step is to record these histories for posterity. We read history books filled with dates, events, and facts. Oral Histories let us see how these events affect different individuals. History is not just historical documents, but humans interacting with these events.

Anyone can help capture an Oral History. We need to learn to ask, to listen, and to record. The Dallas Historical Society is looking for volunteers to help collect these Oral Histories and preserve the history of Dallas. These Oral Histories will be our gift to the future so that people can have a better understanding of Dallas' unique past.

Jeannie Morrison will be at the Dallas Historical Society January 21, 2006 and present a work shop on how to conduct an Oral History. In this two hour session we will learn how to get started, how to plan, and how to prepare questions. Jeannie will show you how to enhance these histories by location and with props. In this session we will cover tips, ethics, and honoring the sensitivity of the interviewee.

This work shop will be part of an on going project at the Dallas Historical Society of gathering and preserving Oral Histories in the archives of the Society. These Oral Histories may be utilized into future exhibitions and programs. Please bring to the workshop a small object that has special memories for you. It may be a pair of scissors that you watched your grandparents' use, an old fashion fountain pen used to fill out a baby book, or a toy from your childhood. What better place to begin honoring your family history then at the Dallas Historical Society? For registration and information contact: Franklin Wilson, (214)421-4500, ext. 105, Frank@dallashistory.org

BROWN BAG IT AT DHS

Lecture series at the Hall of State—BRING YOUR LUNCH

At the height of the Depression, photographer Polly Smith toured Texas to capture images of the state as it prepared to celebrate its centennial. Many of those photographs have adorned the walls of the Hall of State since its opening in 1936. Learn more about this remarkable woman and her work as DHS Executive Director Michael Duty discusses her legacy, (12 - 1 p.m.). The Dallas Historical Society, located in the Hall of State at 3939 Grand Avenue in Fair Park, is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and from 1 to 5p.m. on Sunday. Admission is free.



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*The Vickery Place Neighborhood News is published by the Vickery Place Neighborhood Association.
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info@vpna.org.*

Please contact us with announcements and events that you would like to see in the newsletter. This is YOUR newsletter--please keep us informed.

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