

# "Above The City" Vickery Place

GREENVILLE-BELMONT-HENDERSON-CENTRAL-GOODWIN  
P.O. BOX 720192 DALLAS, TEXAS 75372 WWW.VPNA.ORG

## JANUARY GENERAL MEETING RECAP A TOAST TO THE NEW YEAR!

New faces and fresh ideas came out for the January 12th General Meeting. About 35-40 people gathered at The Grape on Greenville, to toast a new year, voice their choice of priorities for the neighborhood and to get to know some fellow residents. Below are the tabulated results from the meeting.

Top four Priority Topics selected for Vickery Place were:

1. Beautification / Improvement Projects
2. Community Pride/Sense of Place
3. Social Activities
4. Crime Prevention Initiatives

Top four Projects requests were:

1. Street Lighting
2. Wine Walks
3. Sign Topper & Community Garden were tied

Sign Toppers identify our neighborhood as unique and show community pride—this project was kick-started by funds raised at the 2011 Home Tour and the final Sign Topper design is nearing completion (see more details inside). Opportunities for neighbors to get to know one another in a casual atmosphere, such as a spring Wine Walk and other social events are in the planning stages. Our on-going educational programs and crime prevention initiatives will remain priorities, to improve the safety and quality of life within our neighborhood. Street lighting hit the top of the projects list for those attending the meeting. Not only would this give the neighborhood a welcoming feel, but also contribute to a safer environment.

All of these projects require funding and manpower—we need your creative out-of-the box thinking, time and energy to make them a reality. Please continue to attend our monthly meetings and social activities and sign up for a committee or project today by emailing [info@vpna!](mailto:info@vpna!)

**FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING**  
Next VPNA General Meeting will  
be Thursday, February 9th,  
7:00 pm  
at Vickery Towers



**Bulky Trash**  
Week of the 2nd Monday  
**Don't Set Out Trash Before**  
Thursday, February 9  
**Pick Up Week**  
February 13-17




**Weekly Trash  
& Recycling Pick-up**  
Every Monday

A vote was taken at the January General Meeting to amend the Association's existing by-laws. It has been ten years since they were last modified and need some updating (i.e. addressing digital and electronic issues).

The proposal to update the by-laws passed unanimously. A bylaws revision committee has been formed and they will present their proposed amendments in the next month or two.

Thanks to all who attended the January get-together and special thanks to Chef/Owner Brian Luscher, his wife and General Manager Courtney, and The Grape staff for their hospitality, delicious bites and wonderful wine selection.

## COYOTES & FOXES LIVE IN VICKERY PLACE TOO!

At our February monthly meeting, Bonnie Bradshaw of 911Wildlife ([www.911Wildlife.com](http://www.911Wildlife.com)), a local Texas company specializing in humane residential and commercial animal removal, will tell us all about the “other” residents who call Vickery Place home.

Did you know:

- Coyotes, foxes and raccoons flourish in urban neighborhoods like ours and are more likely to be in greater numbers and in better health than their cousins living “out in the country?”
- Trapping and relocating wild animals does not usually work?
- An urban fox only weighs around eight pounds and an urban coyote about 20 pounds?
- There have been no recent reports of foxes, coyotes or raccoons carrying rabies in our North Texas region?

And what about the “dangerous” side of foxes and coyotes – should we worry about the safety of our family and our pets?

This past November, NBC Channel 5 ran a headline catching story “Cats Mutilated in Dallas Neighborhood” with the byline stating “Neighbors believe foxes are responsible for pet deaths in Lakewood.” According to Bonnie Bradshaw, foxes and coyotes are most likely being falsely accused! But that does not mean they can’t be dangerous.

Please come join us at the General Meeting on February 9th, at 7pm at Vickery Towers and learn the three ways we can safely and affectively discourage unwanted and possibly dangerous wild animals from calling Vickery Place home.



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## GET YOUR GREEN ON!

Saturday, March 17, 2012 is the date for this year’s annual Greenville Avenue St. Patrick’s Day celebration. There is a parade in the morning on Upper Greenville, followed by a street party on Lower Greenville between Vanderbilt and Vickery, sponsored by the Greenville Avenue Merchants’ Association.

This popular block party attracts thousands to the street party and tens of thousands to private parties in the surrounding neighborhoods. Falling on the actual St. Patrick’s Day, this year’s event is once again expected to bring in large crowds. Blocks closest to the party zone will be closed to through traffic and the City will designate “no parking” areas with signs placed generally on the north side of streets in Vickery Place.

Due to the increased traffic and congestion, plan your day’s activities accordingly. Police officers and code enforcement will be on duty along with tow trucks staged for parking violations. Maps of the affected area and other pertinent information will be distributed with your March newsletter, as well as posted on the [VickeryPlace.org](http://VickeryPlace.org) website.

## IT’S HAMMER TIME!

### ‘NO PARKING’ SIGN BUILDING PARTY

All Vickery Place residents are invited to come help build the ‘No Parking’ signs for the St. Patrick’s Day street party. With approximately 300+ ‘no parking’ signs to assemble, we will need plenty of extra hands! Bring your hammer and join your neighbors on Wednesday, March 14, 6:30pm, at the home of Anna & Will Short, 5618 Richard Avenue. Pizza, beer & sodas will be provided.



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## VICKERY PLACE SIGN TOPPER DESIGN CONTEST

Over the past couple of months we called upon our talented Vickery Place residents to submit proposed designs for the new Vickery Place sign topper. Well, the submission deadline has passed, and the submitted designs are shown on this page. The contest winner will be determined at our February 9th General Meeting, and the chosen design will be featured on more than 85 new

sign toppers on street corners throughout the neighborhood. There is little doubt that this new design will help to continue to promote Vickery Place as one of Dallas' finest neighborhoods. Final edits to the selected sign design may be made after the vote.



### NEW ADDITION TO VICKERY PLACE



The Greams, Brian, Heather and five-year-old Bell, welcomed a new family member on January 15. Baby girl, Banyan Blu, was born at 3:56 in the afternoon under gorgeous blue skies and sunshine in the back yard of their Vickery Place home. Proud Dad says that Banyan arrived healthy, calm and aware. She weighed 8 lbs. 2oz. and is 20.5 inches long. Mom, Heather, teaches "Dancing for Birth" and is a natural birthing coach.



### CITY OF DALLAS WATERING RESTRICTIONS

Irrigation of landscaped areas with hose-end sprinklers, automatic irrigation systems, drip irrigation, soaker hoses and hand watering is limited to no more than twice per week according to the MANDATORY schedule. No watering is allowed on Mondays, Tuesdays or Fridays and watering is prohibited between 10am and 6pm on the allowed watering days during Stage 1.

#### STAGE 1 WATERING SCHEDULE - Dallas Drought Contingency Plan

Last Digit of Address	Watering Days Allowed
0, 2, 4, 6 or 8 (even numbers)	Sundays and Thursdays
1, 3, 5, 7 or 9 (odd numbers)	Saturdays and Wednesdays
No address number	Sundays and Thursdays



# VPNA 2012 PRIORITIES

By Mark Rieves  
2012 VPNA President

The January General Meeting was held at The Grape Restaurant to celebrate a new year, meet fellow neighbors and set goals to improve the safety and quality of life in and around our neighborhood. During the meeting, residents were asked to indicate their top priorities for Vickery Place by placing a color-coded sticker by projects (including write-ins) grouped in distinct areas as follows.

## Beautification / Improvement Projects

Street Lighting  
Tree Planting

## Community Service / Sense of Place

Street Sign Toppers  
Community Garden  
Home Tour

## Social Activities

Wine Walks  
Porch Parties  
Chili Cook-off  
Happy Hours

## Crime Prevention Initiatives/Crime Watch

Private Patrols  
Networking  
National Night Out  
Camera Installation

## Educational Programs/City Services

Home Repair  
Area Schools  
Zoning  
Gardening  
Neighborhood History / Future

## Other Project Write-Ins

Neighborhood Playground  
Neighborhood Chicken Club  
Code Compliance  
Improved crosswalks on Greenville

## Top Four Project Areas:

1. Beautification / Improvement Projects
2. Community Service/Sense of Place
3. Social Activities
4. Crime Prevention Initiatives

## Top Four Specific Projects:

1. Street Lighting
2. Wine Walks
3. Street Sign Toppers (tied with Community Garden)
4. Community Garden are tied (tied with Street Sign Toppers)

The detailed results, tallied and calculated by our new technology-oriented board member Allan Cano, can be found on the Vickery Place website in the "Resource Center" area ([www.vickeryplace.com/resource-center](http://www.vickeryplace.com/resource-center)).

In a separate-but-related meeting, the 2012 VPNA Board met in late December to determine our board-related 2012 priorities. They are as follows:

1. Obtain the IRS' Section 501(c)(3) status as a "Not for Profit Organization." This designation will allow VPNA to accept tax-deductible donations from residents and businesses.
2. Increase neighborhood participation in all events by better representing all residents of Vickery Place, not just those who live in older homes.
3. Raise more money via special projects and tax-deductible donations that will

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allow VPNA to fund projects that would have been cost-prohibitive in the past.

- 4. Continue educational efforts that improve neighborhood quality of life and reduce crime.
- 5. Obviously, the priorities of the VPNA Board need to align with the priorities of the residents, and I think we are in good shape! For example, for projects such as street lighting (which serves all residents) to get funded, obtaining the tax-deductible 501(c)(3) "Not for Profit" status will certainly make fund-raising more successful.

Another top project, Wine Walks, is certainly a great way to meet new neighbors and increase participation in other events. Even though the Home Tour project did not come out in the Top Four, it still ranked very high and the money raised from the 2011 Home Tour will fund the majority of the Street Sign Topper project. So, we will look to do another Home Tour in 2012 as well.

For those of you who could not attend the general meeting at The Grape last month, we'd still like to hear your ideas and suggestions. Better yet, if you have a specific project or activity that you would like to lead, let us know that too! You can email me directly at [mark@vickeryplace.com](mailto:mark@vickeryplace.com).

Next Month: Look for a calendar of project and events that are planned for Vickery Place in 2012!



## JAMES B BONHAM TO CLOSE

The DISD Board of Trustees voted January 26th to close all 11 schools as proposed by the ad hoc committee, with James B Bonham Elementary remaining on the list of schools to be closed. The 6-2 vote, with one trustee abstaining, occurred

after several hours of contentious public comment and a failed attempt to postpone the closure vote.

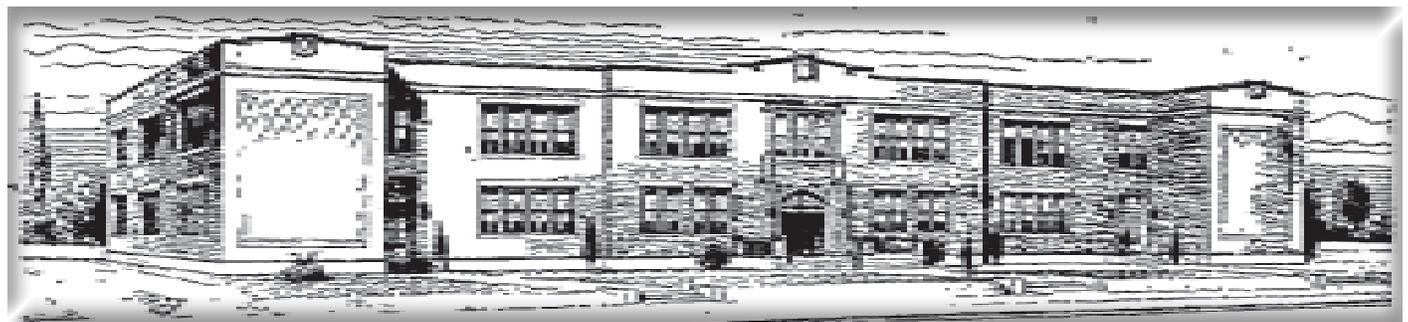
At a public hearing held at Lee earlier in the week DISD officials explained that "nobody wants to close schools," but the Texas legislature's decision not to access the Rainy Day funds has left them with few options. They indicated that the Bonham attendance zone will be incorporated as a whole into Robert E. Lee Elementary, meaning that all of Vickery Place will now be zoned for Lee. This change is also anticipated to alter our middle school and high school zoning as Lee, like Stonewall Jackson and Lakewood Elementary, feeds into J L Long and Woodrow Wilson.

A previous attempt to addend DISD bylaws and allow the top staff from either the closing or receiving school to be retained was unsuccessful. Subsequently, only Bonham's staff will be released into the excess pool. Most of Bonham's teachers are expected to be reappointed to Robert E. Lee. Lee achieved exemplary status in 2011. The addition of top staff from Bonham will hopefully help solidify this level of achievement going forward.

Unfortunately, this will not include Bonham teacher and 2010 Milken National Educator Award winner Rogelio Garcia. Mr Garcia was interviewed by NPR after the vote and stated that being released into the excess pool is equivalent for him to being fired and he will find a teaching position outside of DISD.

On a side note, three Dallas school board seats (districts 1, 3 and 9) will be up for election on May 12. The filing period for candidates begins on February 6, and ends on March 5. Applications can be picked up at DISD's Office of Board Services, 3700 Ross Ave., Room 114, from 8am to 5pm. Anyone want to be a DISD Trustee?

by Velouette Zavadil



## GOOD NEIGHBOR TIP

Attendee's at last month's meeting took a survey to determine what priorities/goals we should have as a neighborhood. The top priority is street lighting, and this makes excellent sense knowing the second priority is wine walks. Who wants to walk these sidewalks in the dark? With wine? There's a simple solution to help light our way and increase the security of your home, porch lights. Unfortunately, porch lights tend to have switches meaning they're left on all day or not turned on in the first place. Both actions signal burglars that no one's home.

There's a simple solution and all it costs you is \$8.00 and a trip to Home Depot, photo sensors. When buying a photo sensor you need to pay attention to the bulb you'll use—CFL, LED, Incandescent—and the size of your light fixture.

CFLs — One of the complaints I hear from people who've used photo sensors in the past is that they changed to a CFL bulb and the light started flickering. If left on the CFL bulb would burn out. This was true with older sensors, however, the newest sensors are specifically designed to work with CFLs. Look on the sensor's packing for image of a CFL spiral bulb or some verbiage that CFLs are supported. If the packaging does not indicate that CFLs are supported then this is an older model and it will not work for CFLs.



LED Bulbs — LEDs will work in the old sensors, but they behave as if on an all-day dimmer. This effect is referred to as leakage. To date I've not seen a package which says it supports LEDs, however, any sensor which supports CFLs will work and avoid the leakage problem.

Incandescent — Any of these sensors will work with a classic incandescent bulb. You just have to pay for the additional electricity you'll be wasting using incandescent lighting.

Sizing — The last problem you may encounter is fitting a sensor and a bulb into smaller light

fixtures. If this is a concern, remember not all CFLs are the same. The slightly more expensive ones produce the same amount of light with taking 1/3 less space. Also, some led bulbs come in a much smaller shapes.

Hope this helps.

This is Allan Cano and I'll keep the light on for you.

## PET OF THE MONTH

Hi there, my name is Zoe and I am an Australian shepherd. I have lived in Vickery Place all of my life. 8.5 years to be exact. I was born on June 13, 2003. At 3 weeks of age, I was dropped on the doorsteps of the SPCA of Texas, wrapped in a blanket with seven of my siblings, and no mom. My human mom



fostered four of us. Another lady fostered two of my brothers and two were so anemic from all the fleas we had, they just gave up the fight.

The lady that fostered me,

adopted me and one of my brothers. And we never looked back. At the age of three, my human mom and I tested to become Delta registered therapy Pet Partners. I have been working ever since. For the last five years, I have worked with tons of kids. I like to help them practice their reading at the library during the summers. I see sick kids at Medical City Children's Hospital. I work with kids of domestic violence at the Family Place and with kids through Dallas Children's Advocacy Center. I also see special needs kids at another library throughout the year. I love my work and if I say so myself, I am very good at it! I enjoy being able to give back to the community. Mom says I cannot take on any more work unless I am going to learn how to drive myself there.

I hope to see you around the neighborhood sometime. I am always out and about in Vickery Place, one of the best neighborhoods in the city, with my mom and brother.  
~ submitted by Robin Terrell

## LAKEWOOD LIBRARY BOOK REVIEWS

February 16, Thursday, 6:30pm - Dallas author, planner and historian for the Dallas Parks and Recreation Department Sally Rodriguez, presents her thoroughly-researched, non-fiction "White Rock Lake".

In 1909, Dallas city leaders approved the damming of White Rock Creek to create a new water source for the increasing needs of a growing city. As a result, so much of the life and history of Dallas has echoed through the life and history of White Rock Lake. In the early decades, the lake was home to many private summer homes and boat houses, as well as hunting and fishing clubs. Soon thereafter, a bathing beach, sailing clubs, public boathouses and picnic facilities were added. The Civilian Conservation Corps and the Works Progress Administration transformed the lake with more recreational and leisure amenities. World War II brought increased military uses that included a POW camp for German officers.

## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

### Hot Fudge Cake

(Julie Do)

For both winter warmth and Valentine's decadence, try this super-easy, yet sinfully delicious cake. This dark chocolate recipe creates a magical layer of hot fudge underneath, which is perfect served warm with your favorite accompaniment, like ice cream. For a Valentine's theme, try an ice cream that's pink, like strawberry or cherry. For deep chocolate flavor, substitute hot coffee for the hot water (coffee accentuates the flavor of chocolate). To add a little spice to your Valentine's, add a little chili powder to the dry ingredients.

2 1/2 cups sugar  
4 tablespoons butter  
1 cup milk  
2 cups flour  
4 teaspoons baking powder  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
2/3 cup, plus 4 tablespoons cocoa  
1 cup brown sugar  
3 cups hot water



Mix 1 1/2 cups sugar, butter and milk together

until creamy. Add flour, baking powder, salt and 4 tablespoons cocoa; stir until smooth. Spread in greased 9 x 13 pan. Batter will be thick. In a separate bowl, mix remaining sugar, brown sugar, and 2/3 cup cocoa; sprinkle over batter. Add hot water gently over top. Bake at 350 degrees for 35 minutes. Serve warm, inverted on plate.



## FISH CITY GRILL'S VALENTINE'S SPECIALS

Celebrate Valentine's Day with Marcus Harris and the Henderson Fish City Grill team. For the entire Valentine's week, their special menu will feature:

- Pan-Seared barramundi
- Tenderloin Stroganoff
- Lobster Ravioli
- Giant Prawns with Chimichurri Sauce

Don't forget to complete your meal with some yummy desserts including featured Carmel Pecan Apple Cake and Cheesecake with Macerated Raspberries

Stop by on February 7th for their 1st Tuesday Charity Event benefiting the Ovarian Cycle Ride to Change the Future. A percentage of all sales this day will go to the charity.



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## FEBRUARY YARD OF THE MONTH

The homeowners at 5238 Miller, Mike and Erin Sander, have lived in Vickery Place since 2007. They moved to the area because they fell in love the historic architecture of

### NORTH HAVEN Gardens

the area and Vickery Place's proximity to everything in Dallas, especially the restaurants and shops on Henderson Avenue. Mike maintains the yard himself and after the relentless summer we had last year, he is glad to get a break from the heat. During the growing season, Mike and Erin planted Hamlin grasses, black-eyed Susans, Knock Out roses, a red maple tree, and several types of Japanese maples in the front yard. The plantings are accented by large landscaping boulders that really lend an architectural element to the yard. The Sanders are most looking forward to the two hundred tulip bulbs popping up this spring that they planted this past fall.



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Photos courtesy of Jeff Keis, DPM

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## NORTH HAVEN Gardens



### Fresh Tastes Best!

What should you plant this month?

- **Seeds & Crowns:** Potatoes, Rhubarb, Asparagus, and Horseradish
- **Transplants:** Broccoli, Cauliflower, Kohlrabi, Cabbage, Brussels Sprouts
- **Seeds:** Cilantro, Parsley, Spinach, Turnip, Scallions, Lettuce, Carrots, Beets & more.

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