

"Above The City" Vickery Place

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

2012 - WOW! WHAT A YEAR!

December is that time of year when we look back on 2012 and look forward to 2013. But before I go any further, I want to make a big shout out to the VPNA board members, neighborhood volunteers and Vickery Place residents who make our neighborhood events a huge success. **THANK YOU!**

NO GENERAL MEETING IN DECEMBER

The next VPNA General Meeting will be
Thursday, January 10th at 7pm
(at a venue to be announced)

Just before last Christmas, the Flores family's house burned to the ground. Fortunately, no one was injured, but they lost everything. The residents of Vickery Place gathered gifts from our neighborhood, sister neighborhoods, former VP residents and North Dallas High. These gifts totaled almost \$5200, plus clothing and home products.

A top objective for 2012 was achieving IRS tax-exempt "charitable organization" status to become an IRS 501(c)(3) corporation. VPNA was awarded this status on June 22, 2012 after more than a year of hard work. As a result, your contributions to VPNA are tax-deductible under section 170 of the IRS code.

In March the adjacent businesses on Greenville Avenue hosted the annual St. Patty's Day Block Party. This event draws 20,000-25,000 people into our neighborhood each year and remains controversial among neighborhood residents. VPNA works with city authorities and businesses to make this event as safe and as orderly as possible.

Throughout 2012, VPNA expanded our partnerships with nearby neighborhood associations and residents along Greenville and Henderson. On Greenville, the former Belmont Post Office property's zoning successfully changed from Commercial Retail to Residential to ensure that a late-night establishment could not be operated at the location. On Henderson, the City of Dallas continued their "Complete Streets" initiative and VPNA participated in multiple neighborhood/city meetings discussing ways that Henderson can be improved to "calm" traffic and make it a more walkable environment.

Bulky Trash

Week of the 2nd Monday
Don't Set Out Trash Before
Thursday, December 6th

Pick Up Week
December 10-14

**Weekly Trash
& Recycling
Pick-up**

Every Monday



In addition to our monthly educational meetings, VPNA hosted our 2nd Annual Wine Walk in June and our annual "National Night Out Against Crime" (NNO) block party. So many residents participated in the Wine Walk, it sold out! They enjoyed a progressive tasting on four beautiful porches on Vickery and Miller to enjoy wine and paired appetizers.

Knowing your neighbor is the best crime fighting activity of all! The National Night Out Against Crime Block Party in October brought neighbors together and featured Vickery Place resident Salim Nourallah and his band, food trucks, a beer garden and a great raffle of items donated by local merchants. (continued page 2)

I've had the privilege to live in Vickery Place for 20 years. In 2012 I reconfirmed what I've known all along – IT'S ALL ABOUT COMMUNITY!

THANKS to everyone who makes our neighborhood the best place to live in Dallas.

~Mark Rieves
2012 and 2013 VPNA President



THANK YOU!

It was a festive gathering for the November 8th Annual Meeting with a variety of delectable dishes provided by the current VPNA board, creative gifts by neighborhood artisans, soothing sounds by resident pianist Lloyd Loving and the election of the 2013 VPNA Board of Directors.

This year's vendors included Candy Hearne, Matthew Ladin, Maria Gonzalez, Debi Gidner, sisters Carrie and Paige Arkinson, Lezlie Bridgewater and the Adams family: Isabelle, Katherine, Deborah & Ken. Thank you all for participating!

CONGRATULATIONS 2013 BOARD

Congratulations and welcome 2013 Vickery Place Neighborhood Association Board of Directors! And a big 'Thank You' to the 2012 Board for your time, dedication and service to maintain and protect the quality of life in our neighborhood.

2013 Board of Directors:

President - Mark Rieves
Vice President - Selena Urquhart
Treasurer - Greg O'Shea
Secretary - Debbie Simurda

Members at Large:

Allan Cano, Alun Urquhart, Anton Skowronski, Beth Bentley, Henley Quadling, Kiersten Ferguson Cremin, Laura Gaudet, Mary Kay Henley, Will Short.





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PETS OF THE MONTH

Deacon, Nelson, Belle and Pudge are the pets of Laura & Mike Gaudet. Deacon is a miniature long-haired dappled dachshund; Nelson and Belle are Feather Footed Marans and Pudge is an American Production.

Deacon was happy being an only pet, until Laura decided that she wanted to try her hand at raising chickens for their fresh eggs. She ordered chicks through the mail and received Nelson, Belle and Pudge (along with some others who went to another home). Deacon at first thought the chickens were treats, but he quickly learned that they were here to stay...although he is still a little unsure about what kind of creatures they are.

The chickens love to sun themselves, peck around the yard and eat a vine growing in the back yard.



They have eaten the lowest level of the vine, so now they have to make big jumps to get the leaves. Watching them is like watching people who have their arms tied, when they get in arguments, they chest bump. When the sun is out, they enjoy sunbathing. Deacon is like any older brother, he gets a little jealous,

but he is still protective of them. When Mike gets too close, he barks, to deter Mike from getting any closer.

Deacon also has a great fondness for chicken feed, but if he eats too much of it, it gives him potty problems.



Nelson got her name because she was the largest chick out of the bunch and used her size to get what she wanted, kind of like Nelson from the Simpsons. Belle is named for being the "girliest" chick of the bunch, when she gets separated from the group, she cries until they come back. Pudge earned the name because when ever new food comes out she jumps on top of it and won't let the others in until she's had her fill. Deacon got his name the old fashioned way, from a baby book. He is fondly referred to as Deeks.

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DECEMBER YARD OF THE MONTH

Huy and Julie Do moved into their 1920 Craftsman bungalow at 5432 Miller three and a half years ago. From the moment Julie read the first yard of the month article she dreamed of making their yard worth of receiving the honor. After struggling for quite some time with choosing a direction for the landscaping they decided to hire a landscaping company to help them achieve their vision. The designer incorporated their ideas of using the Do's theme of orange and purple (which are the colors of their porch accessories) for both

NORTH HAVEN
Gardens



perennial and seasonal color, as well as the black accents of the house trim. The result was the use of black elephant ears, butterfly weed, painted fern, gardenia, cone flowers, dwarf pittosporum, aralia, agapanthus and lantana to name a few, and moneywort for ground cover. The Dos love the lushness of a southern garden, which is why they have pots of philodendron (currently used to accent the poinsettia porch decorations) and a fence of star jasmine. They continue to hone their landscaping skills in their backyard when the resident chickens, Liuzza, Gentilly and Marigny aren't eating or digging up their work, although the Dos do appreciate their fertilizer. The Do family will receive a \$50 gift card to North Haven Gardens for their efforts. Hopefully the card will be put to good use before little Baby Boy Do is born in December since it's much harder to tend to a garden with a new baby! Congratulations, Do Family! ~Anna Short, Beautification Committee Chair

2012 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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 Vice-President – Selena Urquhart
 Treasurer – Greg O'Shea
 Secretary – Debbie Simurda
 Members at Large:
 Beth Bentley Allan Cano
 Julie Do Mary Kay Henley
 Will Short

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