Vickery Place Neighborhood NEWS

GREENVILLE-BELMONT-HENDERSON-CENTRAL-GOODWIN

P.O.BOX 720192 DALLAS, TEXAS 75372 VOICEMAIL:(214)967-5134 WWW.VPNA.ORG

CONGRATULATIONS AND WELCOME
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Lindsey Lecuyer
* Code Complianc:
* Home Tour:
(*chair open)

If you would like to help with one of these committees, please email info@vpna.org.

REFLECTIONS FROM THE 2008 PRESIDENT

As 2008 draws to a close, I along with many of you pause to reflect on the year's events and begin to think about ambitions for the one ahead. My goal as VPNA president was to work with fellow neighbors to maintain and enhance the quality of life in Vickery Place. Together we accomplished a great deal and should be proud of our achievements.

In February 25 new trees were planted by residents, fortifying the tree lined parkways of Vickery Place. Yard of the Month winners (along with those competing) beautified our yards. In the spring neighborhood volunteers marked 64 neighborhood storm inlets with No Dumping decals to keep our water clean and prevent street flooding. National Night Out Against Crime brought together Vickery Place residents, area businesses, police and local officials for an evening of camaraderie to promote a safer neighborhood.

The VPNA Board planned informative and cultural monthly meetings, many times showcasing our local talent: Forward Dallas, Folkloric/Traditional Dance Performance, School Choice (prompting the Henderson Avenue Preschool Association), Butterfly Gardening, Researching House History, Traffic/Parking solutions, Ice Cream Social/Barbershop Quartet, Home Improvement, 'A Fair to Remember' documentary (recently honored with a Lone Star EMMY Award), and the Pot Luck Dinner/Artisan Fair.

With today's challenging and changing environment, now is the time to get to know your neighbors, give back to your community, get involved with a grassroots effort, make a difference…for yourself, your children and generations to come.

It has been a pleasure and an honor to serve with you this past year—thanks for the opportunity!
~ Beth Bentley, VPNA 2008 President

Hannah and Lindsey Lecuyer with pianist John Rainone at year-end meeting
See Pot Luck page 2

****THERE WILL BE NO GENERAL MEETING IN DECEMBER!****

Recycling Pick-up
Thursday, December 11
Wednesday, December 24

Volume 27, Issue 12
December 2008

Bulky Trash/Basura Abultado
Don't Set Out Trash Before:
Thursday, December 4

Pick Up Week:
December 8 -12

NOVEMBER ANNUAL MEETING RECAP

As promised, the evening was filled with an array of delicious foods, colorful art and melodic music. Pianist John Rainone set the mood playing popular tunes and holiday favorites as Vickery Place neighbors dished up culinary delights provided by the VPNA Board and VP residents. Mark & Justin's delicious Herb Stuffing Casserole was a popular dish and the recipe is printed below. Forty five canned goods were collected and will be donated to the North Texas Food Bank.

All the while, residents browsed the arts and crafts tables, stocking up on some holiday gifts. Preschool teacher and neighbor Lindsey LeCuyer led the kids "On a Bear Hunt", a song & dance routine. Central Patrol Officers Sgt. Amy Mills and Lt. Ricky Lewis briefed residents on holiday safety and Henderson Ave/Knox Street beat changes. Code Compliance Officer Kelly Price was also on hand if residents had code issues or questions. After brief introductions of nominees, the proposed slate was voted in as the 2009 VPNA Board of Directors. Congratulations to the new board and many thanks to the current board for their efforts this year.

Extended thanks to John Rainone, artists Charlotte Lindsey & Larry Enge, Polly Giselle, Candy Hearne, Dean and Hailey Maruna, Isabelle & Katherine Adams, and VT artists in residence, City officials, Vickery Towers dining room staff, and of course to all of our neighbors who shared in the Pot Luck.

***** January General Meeting will be Thursday January 8, 7:00pm, at Vickery Towers.*****

BAKED SAVORY HERB STUFFING CASSEROLE

Prep time: 10 minutes Total time: 40 minutes Makes 6 delicious servings.

Ingredients:
1 pkg (6 oz.) Stove Top Stuffing Savory Herbs Stuffing Mix
1 can (10 3/4 oz.) condensed cream of chicken soup
1/3 cup sour cream
1 bag (16 oz.) frozen mixed vegetables, thawed, drained
Optional: 1 1/2 lb. boneless skinless chicken breasts, cut into 1 inch pieces

Directions:
1. PREHEAT oven to 400 degrees F. Prepare stuffing mix as directed on package; set aside.

2. MIX soup, sour cream, vegetables, and chicken (optional) in 13x9 inch baking dish; top with prepared stuffing.

3. BAKE 30 minutes (or until chicken is cooked through if using optional chicken breast).

You can prepare the baked casserole with or without the chicken breast. When prepared with the chicken it makes for a heartier casserole.

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WELCOME WHEELS ~ *Shelia Huffman*

I am proud to announce the arrival of my new Boston Terrier puppy Sunglo's Cruisin' In A Tuxedo, affectionately known as Wheels. Sunglo kennel is located in the Rouge Valley of southern Oregon. Although Wheels arrived at his new home just in time to celebrate the holidays with his new family, *HE IS NOT A CHRISTMAS PUPPY*. I had been looking for a Boston Terrier and researching kennels for several months and when I saw pictures of Wheels along with his sire and dam, I fell in love.

Please remember that pets do not make good Christmas presents. The thrill of the puppy on Christmas morning too often turns into a sad situation for everyone, especially the unwanted pup. Animals require a lot of time and expense. If your household is not prepared to take on the 15 year commitment of caring for a pet, wait until the time is right for you.

And during this season of giving, don't forget our furred and feathered friends. Animal charities always need our help!

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SUPERB WEEKEND BRUNCH 11AM - 3PM
2810 n. henderson ave | 214.827.1432 | vickeryparkbar.com
MON-THURS 4PM - 2AM • FRI 3PM - 2AM • SAT-SUN 11AM - 2AM

WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE this holiday season and all year round by helping others less fortunate than us. While cash donations are always welcome, so are donations of gently used or new items, surplus non-perishables from our pantries and of course, the volunteering of our time. Some Dallas-based charities you may want to check out:

Carter Blood Care
http://www.carterbloodcare.org/
Carter Blood Care is a not-for-profit, community-based blood center providing blood components and transfusion services for patients at more than 300 health care facilities in 54 North Central and East Texas counties. You can support Carter by giving blood, organizing a drive, cash donations or volunteering your time.

The Dallas Ramp Project – *Building Freedom for the Homebound!*
http://www.dallasramps.org/
The project has built more than 2,000 ramps, liberating people imprisoned in their homes, unable to get out because of the front steps that most of us take for granted. The Dallas Ramp Project is 100% volunteer staffed, relying on individual donations and corporate partners to provide the funding, building materials, and facilities for their work.

Eyeglass Donation
Donate your old eyeglasses and sunglasses to help people with eyesight difficulties. Collection facilities include Goodwill Industries stores, LensCrafters stores, and Lions Club drop boxes.

North Texas Food Bank
http://www.ntxfoodbank.org/
Addressing the critical issue of hunger in the North Texas area by securing donations of wholesome foods and grocery products for distribution through a network of charitable organizations dedicated to feeding the hungry in 13 North Texas Counties.

Operation Kindness
http://www.operationkindness.org/donate/wishlist.php
The oldest and largest no-kill shelter in North Texas. Operation Kindness is a nonprofit animal welfare organization that cares for homeless or unwanted cats and dogs in a no-kill environment. You can show your support by adopting an animal, donating items requested on the shelter's web-site or volunteering your time.

Ronald McDonald House
http://www.rmhdallas.com/donate/wish_list.html
Providing a home-away-from-home that services and sustains families of seriously ill or injured children receiving treatment in a Dallas hospital. You can support the house by visiting the Trains at North Park – a major annual fundraiser; collecting pull tabs from soda cans; linking your Tom Thumb Reward Card (using number 1080 for RMHD) and a percentage of your purchases will be donated; or donating items requested on their wish list.

The Stewpot
http://thestewpot.org/wishlist.asp
The Stewpot has evolved from a soup kitchen to a model health and human service provider helping over 700 people each day with programs ranging from dental/medical clinics, AIDS testing to at-risk children and youth programs.

Support Our Troops
http://supportourtroopstexas.com/
The mission of the Meet/Greet/Support/Communicate service area is to acknowledge the sacrifice and service of all military members by written words, verbal thanks, goods shipments, and donations to military charities. You can support this organization through their various programs — Shop, Pack and Send; Meet and Greet R&R troops at DFW International Airport; Written Communications to our troops; Homeland Support of our troops; Board of Honor; Scrapbook; Robson Ranch Family Military Roster.

VICKERY PLACE SAYS FAREWELL TO LONGTIME NEIGHBOR

Claire Rozelle McCants Smith, a resident of Vickery Place for fifty-nine of her hundred and two years, passed away at her home on Goodwin Avenue this November.

Claire was born in a log cabin in Chatfield Texas. She was a graduate of Our Lady of Good Council High School in Oak Cliff. As a young lady she had her own salon in Corsicana. In 1927 she married and reared four children. She became a single mother in 1941 and over the years held positions at Western Union during WWII, and many years later as an executive administrator to the store president of Sears Roebuck at Ross and Greenville Avenues.

She attributed her long life to her holistic lifestyle including becoming a vegetarian. Claire had a deep and abiding faith in God, which sustained her throughout her life.

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HOLIDAY TEA AT THE ARBORETUM

November 28 - December 30, 11am and 2pm

Enjoy tea in the beautiful Tea Room and then take a stroll in their 66-acres of gardens. Make your reservations now to bring out your friends and family to this perfect holiday treat. And to make this treat a little sweeter, tea guests will receive a 15% discount coupon for the gift shop to use the same day of their tea!

Advance Reservations Required:
(72 Hour Cancelation Policy) 214-515-6610, Calls answered Monday - Friday

Holiday Tea - $33.50 per person
Champaign Tea - $43.50 per person
Private Group Teas - $35.95 per person
(prices include gratuity)

For other events at the Arboretum, www.dallasarboretum.org

SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF THE SEASON AT NORTHPARK CENTER

December 3-21, 2008

Over 135 community groups entertain visitors at NorthPark each holiday season as part of their annual "Sights and Sounds of the Season" music and dance program. Local elementary, middle and high school groups perform daily at NorthPark Center in the Northcourt and in Dillard's Court. For a schedule of performances and for additional holiday activities visit www.northparkcenter.com, click on Special Events.

DALLAS CHILDREN'S THEATER (ROSEWOOD)

MADELINE'S CHRISTMAS
November 21 - December 21, 2008

Joyeux Noel and Bonne Annee! Celebrate the season in picturesque Paris with the famous and precocious little sweetheart adored by generations for her bravery and kindness.

SANTA'S HOLIDAY FOR STRINGS - *A PUPPETRY EXTRAVAGANZA*
November 28 - December 23, 2008

Starring Santa and Frosty, and featuring Christmas trees, penguins, and seasonal gifts, this innovative holiday celebration honors peace, joy and love.

For performance times and more information, www.dct.org**.**

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Wednesday, December 24

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church invites Vickery Place neighbors to its candlelight Christmas Eve Service. The family friendly service begins at 6:00 p.m. Wednesday December 24 in the sanctuary. St. Andrew's is located at 3204 Skillman at Monticello.

For information call 214 821-9989 or go to www. standrews.presbychurch.org.

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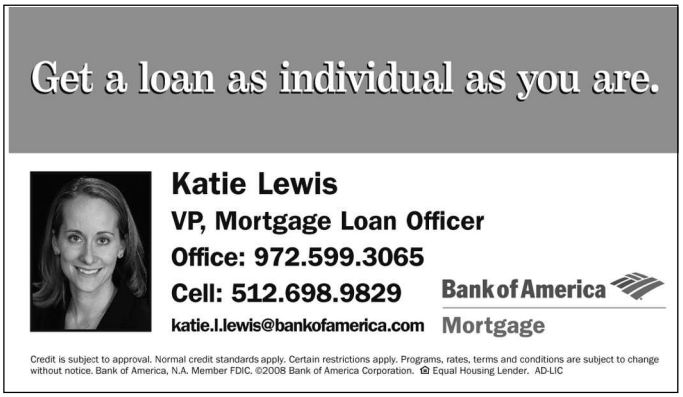
OCTOBER 2008 CRIME STATS:

CRIME	DATE	ADDRESS
ROBBERY	10/16/08	27XX HOMER
BURGLARY	10/04/08	56XX WILLIS
BURGLARY	10/10/08	56XX GOODWIN
BURGLARY	10/13/08	51XX MILLER
BURGLARY	10/20/08	52XX RICHARD
BURGLARY	10/24/08	54XX GOODWIN
BURGLARY	10/28/08	53XX GOODWIN
BURGLARY	10/29/08	52XX MILLER
THEFT	10/14/08	51XX MILLER
THEFT	10/14/08	51XX WILLIS
THEFT	10/15/08	51XX MILLER
THEFT	10/17/08	28XX GREENVILLE
THEFT	10/19/08	51XX RICHARD
THEFT	10/19/08	51XX RICHARD
THEFT	10/19/08	51XX WILLIS
THEFT	10/20/08	51XX RICHARD
THEFT	10/25/08	51XX WILLIS
THEFT	10/26/08	51XX RICHARD
THEFT	10/27/08	51XX WILLIS
THEFT	10/29/08	26XX MADERA
AUTO THEFT	10/17/08	56XX GOODWIN
AUTO THEFT	10/19/08	51XX RICHARD
OTHER ASLT	10/05/08	27XX HOMER
VANDAL	10/11/08	51XX RICHARD
VANDAL	10/10/08	54XX VICKERY
VANDAL	10/22/08	52XX MILLER

New to Vickery Place Neighborhood?

www.vpna.org



CURBING CRIME

You may have noticed that the crime stats for Vickery Place neighborhood have dramatically gone down over the last 6 months, especially compared to past year's figures. This is due in great part to having the **Expanded Neighborhood Patrol** in our neighborhood.

Because we have the same ENP officers patrolling our neighborhood each week, they have gotten to know where criminal activity is taking place, where criminals live (many within our neighborhood) and are able to more diligently target and tackle long term problems. They have removed many of the criminal elements that were plaguing Vickery Place in previous years. ENP officers are now known to area criminals, who try to avoid contact with these officers.

Another contributing factor is that we have both Central Patrol officers as well as our ENP officers patrolling in and around Vickery Place, which shows a greater police presence and gives Vickery Place a sort of layered protection.

But, this is no excuse to let our guard down, there is criminal activity occurring in surrounding neighborhoods and along the Henderson and Greenville Avenue commercial corridors. We want to continue to keep this activity from encroaching into our neighborhood, especially during the holiday season when crime traditionally spikes.

Always report any suspicious persons or activity by calling 911; be sure to ask for a follow-up call. Lock-up your car & house when you depart; do not leave valuables in sight; be aware of your surroundings; inform neighbors when you are out of town. If you have a particular problem or issue, you can contact our ENP coordinator, Officer Keith Allen at 214-671-3477 or keith.allen@dallascityhall.com. If you are a member of ENP, be sure to let the officers know well in advance when you will be out of town so they can check your house premise. Have a safe and Happy Holiday Season!

VICKERY PLACE

2008 Board of Directors

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The Vickery Place Neighborhood News is published by the Vickery Place Neighborhood Association. For advertising rates and information, email Vickery Place at info@vpna.org.

PROTECT YOUR HOME AND FAMILY
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CRIME WATCH/EXPANDED NEIGHBORHOOD PATROL APPLICATION

Yearly contribution of $250, January 2008 - December 2008

Bi-yearly contribution of $125, January 2008 - June 2008

Name: _____ Date: _____

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(Email is required to receive neighborhood alerts; please print clearly)

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