



FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING

Our February General Meeting is a combination of community information from our Council Member Philip Kingston, City of Dallas Bike Plan (including information on the bike lanes on McMillan) and representatives from the Lower Greenville Collective who would like to establish a relationship with the neighborhood.

Join us Tuesday, February 17th at 7pm at The Bottle Shop, 2116 Greenville Ave.?



ROBERT E. LEE PRE-K/KINDERGARDEN ROUND UP

Robert E. Lee Elementary invites all parents with children who will be 5 years old on, or before, September 1, 2015 and those who will be 4 years old on, or before, September 1 (who qualify) to attend Pre-Kindergarten/Kindergarten roundup on Thursday, February 12 from 2:00pm - 4:00pm in Lee auditorium. Receive information about the upcoming school year and learn about all the new and exciting things taking place at Lee. Official Dallas ISD registration does not occur until April, but Principal Ransom and her team are providing this great opportunity in February.

Before heading to the auditorium, please check in at the front office. Parents and staff will be available to answer questions. There will be a short presentation from Dallas ISD's

MLEP Dept. (Multi-Language Enrichment Program) on Lee's Two-Way Dual Language Program. Two-way dual language will be offered to students in Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade for the 2015/16 school year. Parents commit to support their children in the program with long-term intentions, and children stay together as they advance through primary school in subsequent dual language classrooms.

For more information, call 972/749-7400, or visit the school's website at: www.dallasisd.org/relee.



GREENVILLE AVENUE ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

This year St. Patrick's Day celebrations kick off on Saturday, March 14, 2015 with a parade in the morning on Upper Greenville, followed by the annual street party on Lower Greenville between Vanderbilt and Vickery. The popular street party attracts tens of thousands to private parties in the surrounding neighborhoods. 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. Maps of the affected area and other pertinent information will be distributed with your March newsletter as well as posted on the Vickery-Place.org web-site and the Vickery Place Facebook page.

Next VPNA General Meeting
Tuesday, February 17th, 7:00pm
The Bottle Shop, 2116 Greenville Ave

Bulk Trash
Week of the 2nd Monday
Don't Set Out Trash Before:
Thursday, February 5
Pick Up Week February 9-13
Weekly Trash & Recycling Pick-up
Every Monday



TWO HOMES, FOUR PARENTS AND LOTS OF LOVE.

Vickery Place says farewell to one of its animal neighbors, Luca or "Bully," as he was affectionately known, passed away after thirteen happy years at his two homes on Richard Avenue. His parents, John and Lana at 5610 Richard and Steven and Daniel at 5614 Richard shared caring for him for all these years. Most animals are lucky enough to have one or two loving human parents but Luca was exceptionally lucky to have four!

Luca, also knew that he lived in a special place with really big front porches for him to oversee Vickery Place from his tall pedestal. Luca became a fixture of the neighborhood and was seen by many from St. Patty's Day to Halloween or simply doing what he loved best, resting on a chaise lounge and basing

in the sun on a warm day. His parents and the neighbors who knew him already miss him dearly but will surely remember his sweet, kind face and nature for years to come.

Farewell, sweet Bully.



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.)



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These census tracts had to consist of 50% or more residents at or below a certain low-income level. Vickery Place was at 51% at that time, 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.

In January 1982 a meeting with the neighborhood included input on the City's findings. Held at the Greenville Avenue Christian Church (Greenville and Llano), the meeting 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. .

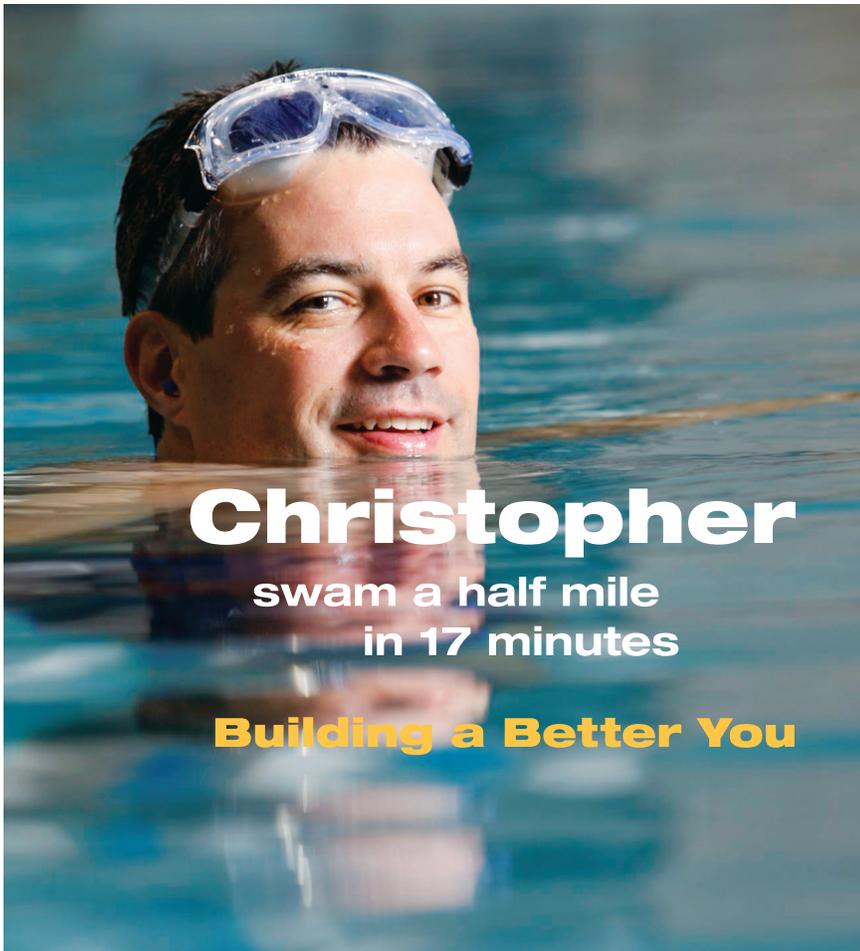


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The complaints were not a bad thing. They were cries from people who felt passionately about where they lived. They were people who did not want to move away from bad conditions, but instead wanted to stay and improve those conditions, and they wanted 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 he passed 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.



FROM THE BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

I grew up in Missouri where master gardeners were doing organic in the 1950's when it definitely was not in style. My dad's simple advice for pruning was "limbs should not cross". It was years later with a yard of my own and an arborist by my side that I learned the smaller of the limbs should be pruned.

Winter is an ideal time to prune. Any insurance agent will tell you that the ravages of an ice storm and the abundant claims one creates can be abated by sensible tree pruning before the storm hits, and winter is the perfect time. It is easier to see the juxtaposition of limbs and the shedding of leaves has lightened the load.

There are DON'Ts

Don't prune maples, birches, dogwoods, walnuts or elms in winter.

Don't give your trees a flat top. Not only does it look ridiculous, it will grow weak new sprouts in place of healthy branches. Stay with a natural shape and let it grow up and out.

Don't prune near power lines and stay within the bounds of your pruning tool.

Sign up for e-learn modules, get quick tips, learn about reforestation, rules for removing large tree and the permits involved as well as a list of approved replacement trees..

It may be time to call a professional.

Finally, a word about why there is no Yard of the Month in this issue. My partner Debbie and I put a lot of time and effort into this endeavor. We drive around looking at yards trying to choose attractive and diverse example of our Vickery Place neighbourhood. Sometimes our note announcing to the winner that their yard has been selected, goes unheeded.

Ours is not a judgemental activity but rather one of praise, reward and celebration. North Haven Gardens generously provides a gift card each month to the winner. We would love to hear from you about any recommendations and suggestions and if a note announcing your selection appears in your mailbox we would love to hear from you too.

Mary Kay Henley & Debbie Simurda



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Vickery Place's newsletter is published by
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