



LGNA

LOWER
GREENVILLE
NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION

SEPT / OCT 2008

MOCKINGBIRD TO ROSS / GREENVILLE TO SKILLMAN

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LGNA SUMMER SOCIAL

LGNA's July meeting, the Fajita Fiesta, was a great success with about 60 people in attendance. Thanks to good friend Matt Mortimer at Blue Goose Cantina, over 60 guests and residents enjoyed fajitas, chips, rice, beans, and sopapillas from Blue Goose. To fill out the menu, folks brought generous sides dishes of salads, fruit, veggies, casseroles, and desserts.

In keeping with the fiesta theme, a salsa/dip contest drew a dozen entries. Everyone sampled the delicious dips, voting on their favorite(s). Blue Goose provided trophies and generous prizes to the top three competitors. First-place winner was Neil Emmons, second-place honors were awarded to Allison Kravetz, and Rusty Daniel received third prize.

Special guests included District 14 Planning Commissioner Neil Emmons, Ryan Trimble of State Rep. Dan Branch's office, and DPD Officer Chris Dorword who is one of the officers patrolling our neighborhood. Officer Dorword was accompanied by DPD Cadet Brandon Sampson.



Everyone who attended agreed that the dinner was an excellent way to meet neighbors and those who serve our neighborhood.

GARDEN INSPIRATION

If you've wanted new ideas for your yard and garden, plan to attend LGNA's September 16 meeting, 7:00 p.m. at Greenland Hills UMC.

The Dallas Arboretum's Alyssa Hill will be telling us about "Autumn at the Arboretum" and other current events that make those gardens an ever-changing place to visit and enjoy. She will also provide information on classes – including gardening classes – at the Arboretum. Of course, there will be inspiring pictures to help you plan your own efforts at home.

Good for the night of the meeting only, Alyssa will offer new Arboretum memberships at 10% off the regular price. Membership includes a discount on the Arboretum's workshops, lectures, and adult education classes. Membership also provides free admission and free parking all year as well as express entry during major festivals. You can witness four seasons of spectacular floral displays at no additional cost.

Pat Carr—Vanderbilt

NEXT LGNA MEETING

WHEN Tuesday Sept 16
7:00pm

WHERE Greenland Hills
United Methodist
Church
5835 Penrose

TOPIC Dallas Arboretum

LGNA meetings are held the third
Tuesday of odd-numbered months.

in this issue



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- ◆ Crime Update

now on the web

Log on to
www.LGNA.net
to take our poll
and tell us what
you think.



This month's poll:
*What crime issue do you
want to see LGNA focus on?*

USEFUL NUMBERS

Council Member Angela Hunt
214-670-5415

State Rep. Dan Branch
214-745-5768

DPD Officer Keith Allen
214-671-3477

City Service Coordinator
Pame' La Ashford
214-671-8875

Sanitation / Bulk Trash
214-670-3555

Code Compliance
214-670-5708

Animal Control
214-670-5111 or 311



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT - OCT 7th!

For the fifth year running, three area neighborhood associations – Lakewood Heights, Lower Greenville, and Lowest Greenville West are joining forces to hold one of the city's largest National Night Out events. Approximately 5,000 households are represented by these three organizations, and our event generates 700+ attendees each year. The new date for this year's event will be Tuesday, October 7, 2008, from 5:30-8:30 p.m, once again at Tietze Park. This will be a relief to all those who attended in years past when the event was held in the heat of August.

In addition to the new date, we are moving the party to the Pavillion area of the park. It will be a little farther from the parking lot, but we'll be able to take advantage of all the recent improvements to the

park. We will have many city departments available to answer your questions and plenty of police officers to talk to about crime concerns. In addition to the face painters and hotdogs, this year we'll be having a free-throw contest with prizes for different age groups. This event will take the place of our regularly scheduled November LGNA meeting. Be sure to save the date!

DARREN DATTALO—GOLIAD

KNOW your NEIGHBORS



Do you know Doug Havis? He's a former LGNA board member and past president of LGNA. Doug got involved because of an issue. When the city sought to re-appraise, and raise, the valuation of homes in the area, Doug joined LGNA and began to take an active part in the process. LGNA joined other neighborhood associations in learning how to protest these valuations. What were some of the issues facing the neighborhood then? Requests for changing the zoning of the Greenville Avenue Christian Church site property from residential to commercial was one. That debate lasted several years, but there are homes in the 5700 block of Llano now. The lots on the northeast corner of Marquita and Greenville were another instance of Doug's helping LGNA to retain residential zoning. LGNA also co-operated with other organizations in site planning for the former Dr Pepper plant, which later became Kroger.

Doug came to Dallas by way of Arlington. He owned an automotive repair business on Lowest Greenville for several years before switching to the plumbing business and is now retired. A remnant of this business exists in his front yard: a toilet serves as a planter for cactus and other succulents.

Doug says his volunteering now consists of helping his wife, Calla. They have delivered newsletters on Kenwood for a number of years. They go to the former Stewpot, now called "The Bridge," once a week. Calla serves food and Doug serves water. He helps Calla with her volunteering at the White Rock Center of Hope, their church and at a community center. What businesses would he like to see on Greenville? His answer was "those that support a residential area such as a dry cleaner".

GAY HOPKINS—MONTICELLO

How well do you know your neighbors? One of the best things you can do to improve your neighborhood is to get to know those who live around you. Not only does it make for a happier place to live, it actually helps reduce crime. Find some time this week to say hello to a new neighbor! And if you know of someone you'd like to see profiled in this column, let us know.

We would love to have more photos of the neighborhood in this newsletter. If you have some to share, drop us an email at director3@lgna.net

HOW TO: Hold a Block Party!

One of LGNA's goals is to bring a greater sense of community to our neighborhood. In fact, the first item articulated in our mission statement is to create forums where neighbors can communicate on issues that matter to them. One great way to accomplish this is through block parties. There are several parts of our neighborhood where regular block parties have become a tradition. From large events like the one held in November each year by the Belmont Addition Conservation District to individual block parties held on Llano and Monticello, they all have one thing in common: neighbors who want to be part of a community. Of course one of the most positive outcomes of this type of interaction is that crime is always reduced in neighborhoods where people know each other.

Here are a few tips on how to hold a block party:

Don't do it alone! Find a core group of 5 to 10 people to help plan and organize the event. Having stakeholders involved will not only reduce the load, but give others a sense of involvement.

Start early The bigger the party, the more time you need. While a progressive dinner might only take a few days to plan, you still need to allow time to get on everyone's calendar.

Tell everyone, more than once You can send the message out by email, flyer, postcard, whatever makes sense for your event. But let people know at least a month in advance and then remind them again a week before.

Get sponsors There are many businesses in our neighborhood that are happy to sponsor neighborhood events. Ask them for donations of food, beverage, raffle prizes or simple sponsorships to defray the cost of the event.

Get the right permits If you want to block off the street, you will need a permit and barricades. Make sure you contact the city's special events department. You may need signatures from your neighbors to block any part of the street.

DARREN DATTALO—GOLIAD

Neighborhood Parking Concerns



For many years, parking in the Lower Greenville area has been a challenge. And not just on St. Patrick's Day. Some estimates have indicated that we have a deficit of as many as 3,000 spaces below what should be required to serve the businesses currently in place. LGNA has received many comments and questions on this topic recently. The City offers both RPO (Resident Parking Only) and No Parking Anytime options.

Resident Parking Only

Several concerned LGNA residents have asked us to explain the pros and cons of Resident Parking Only and how the process works. Some residents feel this adds to the quality of life by reducing the number of cars parked in the street and keeps an undesirable element out of their area. Others do not like the inconvenience of having to make accommodations for their guests and having to obtain their own permits. At least one police officer has expressed concern that pushing parking farther away from the businesses dilutes police resources on busy nights by forcing them to patrol larger areas.

The RPO program establishes zones to restrict on-street parking during certain hours and days and allows only those vehicles displaying a parking permit (rear view mirror hang tag) to park within the zone. Any vehicle parked in a designated zone during the effective hours (including vehicles with handicapped parking tag or license) must display the RPO hang tag. Before implementing RPO, city staff will conduct a field survey. The threshold is: more than 60% of the available parking spaces are in use and 20% is non-residential parking during the requested days and hours. If a zone qualifies, the residents will bear all costs of sign fabrication and installation at a cost of \$42 each. Residents may purchase up to 6 hang tags which each cost \$6 plus tax per year. To qualify for a tag, the person must show proof that they live or own a business in the zone which has been designated as RPO. The city will investigate each purchaser for any outstanding parking citations. Households may also purchase a maximum of 50 one-day guest permits for events or parties on a specific date at a cost of 10 cents each.

An area may qualify to become an RPO zone by submitting a petition signed by two-thirds of the residents or property owners indicating their desire for Resident Parking Only. The petition requires a \$50 application fee. The same petition process may be followed to remove an RPO zone.

No Parking Anytime

Implementing or removing No Parking in a block may also be obtained by a petition process, though petition requirements are different. The petition form should be signed by at least 80% of the owners or tenants affected by the No Parking restriction. 51% or more of the total owners/tenants must be in favor of the change. Signatures should only be taken from residents living on the side of the street that the signs are to be installed or removed. The requestor should submit the signed petition form along with a fee of \$50. Upon confirmation of the requesting petition, signs will be installed or removed at a cost of \$25 per sign.

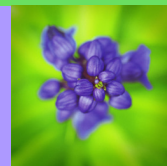
It's Your Decision

Since parking restrictions impact those who live in the designated area, LGNA has since 1999 maintained a policy that RPO and No Parking zones are a block-by-block decision, and we respect the right of residents who actually reside on the designated blocks to make their own decision. Your neighborhood association will not make this choice for you, but if you need help in navigating the process of adding or removing parking restrictions, LGNA is available to advise.

PAT CARR—VANDERBILT

Q&A Dig This!

Notes from a Neighborhood Gardener



Send your gardening questions to Sara by email at:
digthislgna@yahoo.com.

Fall, a time to divide and separate plants gone wild. Consider sharing with a friend or extending or adding a new bed. Also start looking for sales on perennials at local nurseries. They may not look good, but then, nothing does after a long hot Texas summer. If you get perennials into the ground this fall, you will be amazed at how well they will do next year.

Start thinking about fall bulbs to plant for early spring bloom (daffodils, tulips, Dutch iris, hyacinths, anemone, ranunculus). Shop early for the best selections but don't get them in the ground quite yet. Tulips will need 6 weeks of refrigeration before planting in Dallas. I like to plant most bulbs in Oct. and Nov but wait till January for my tulips.

Falling leaves, a sure sign of the seasons passing, consider mulching or composting them this fall rather than bagging and setting curbside. I usually just mow over my fallen leaves, composting them back into the lawn.

**Sara Wick
Palo Pinto**



CRIME WATCH UPDATE

The last time we polled the neighborhood, you told us that home burglaries were your highest concern. Since then, we've been making an effort to continually remind people the basics of target hardening when it comes to your home: keep the lights on, secure access from the alley and know your neighbor. For the three months of May-June-July, we've had a slight decrease in home burglaries from 20 in 2007 to 16 in 2008. While that's a 20% improvement, we still have work to do. Of total thefts reported, we are down from 37 to 33 (10%) for the same 3 month period. (Just a reminder, if you're a member of our Expanded Neighborhood Patrol program, an officer will check on your home when you are away for more than 3 days.) Those of you on our crime watch email list have been hearing about the rise in BMVs (burglary of motor vehicle). We're changing the way we collect the data on these so we can watch it more closely. This is complicated by police reporting. When a thief breaks a car window but does not steal anything, it's recorded as vandalism. We're working with our ENP officer to try to wade through the data each month to get a better handle on the numbers. However, it seems that of the thefts, we are seeing less stolen off the porch and more stolen from parked vehicles. Please park off the street when possible and keep valuables out of sight.

Scam alert—A scam artist has been reported working the northern part of the neighborhood between McCommas and Mockingbird. He is a clean-cut and friendly white male driving a black pick-up truck. He approaches neighbors either while they are in the front yard or by knocking on the door. He claims to be a new resident who has just moved into the neighborhood and that his wife was in a car accident and he needs some cash urgently so that he can get gas to go to the hospital. This is a scam. If you see this man, please try to make a note of his license number and contact 911 right away. Our ENP officer is on the lookout and will respond immediately if he is on duty when the call comes in. If not, he will get the information for follow-up later.

DARREN DATTALO—Goliad

	Total Incidents	Residential Incidents	Residential Thefts & Break-ins	Violent Crime**	Auto Theft
June 2008	52	30	17	2	1
July 2008	63	30	18	3	4
Typical	66	33	18	4	5

** Violent crime includes murder, rape, robbery or aggravated assault.



Expanded Neighborhood Patrol Update ENP IN ACTION!

I hope everyone has had a good summer so far. It is important to realize as Labor Day approaches and school begins that summer isn't over just yet. For those of you planning on a long Labor Day weekend or a late summer vacation, there are still warm days and nights left. The warm weather provides a nice environment for burglars. I'm pleased to report that everyone who has vacationed this summer did a very good job of following one of the basic principles of crime prevention—your house looked lived in. Burglars love to scout places where it is obvious that someone is on vacation. Lights on timers, newspapers picked up, mail retrieved, and windows locked were good to see as we checked on your homes. Only a few places forgot to have the yard mowed and a ladder or two were left accessible, but your efforts to help us prevent offenses are appreciated.

Some other neighborhoods have had issues with flat screen (LCD or plasma) televisions being taken. The bad guys seem to be casing locations in the early evening when the window treatments are not in use and the TV can be easily seen from the street or sidewalk. The next day they know exactly where and what to target. As you take an evening stroll, please take a look around the neighborhood and see if any houses are vulnerable and let your neighbor know.

I mentioned earlier about school beginning. It would be very helpful if you would call 911 about any truant sightings. Our kids need to be in school, not roaming the neighborhood. If there is a house or store that routinely has kids hanging out, please call with the address. We all benefit if from the very first day we let students know that they belong in school and on time. Historically, the Department assigns officers to look for and respond to calls regarding truants, so please call us without hesitation. Thank you.

KEITH ALLEN, Dallas Police

JOIN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION!

LGNA & LGNA EXPANDED NEIGHBORHOOD PATROL SIGN-UP FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

CELL: _____

EMAIL: _____

COMMENTS: _____

- Please choose all that apply:
- ☐ Join LGNA (\$10/yr, \$5 for seniors)
 - ☐ Join ENP (\$200/yr, \$150 for seniors)
 - ☐ Add me to the Crime Watch email list
 - ☐ Please contact me about volunteering

Please print clearly! Email addresses are required to receive neighborhood alerts. Personal information is not shared with any outside group or used for any other purpose. Receipts will be furnished upon request. Checks for LGNA membership should be made out to LGNA. For Extended Neighborhood Patrol membership, checks should be made out to LGNA-ENP.

Mail this form and check payable to LGNA or LGNA-ENP to: PO Box 720067, Dallas, TX 75372 (or bring it to the next LGNA meeting).