



LGNA

LOWER
GREENVILLE
NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION

NOV / DEC 2010

MOCKINGBIRD TO ROSS / GREENVILLE TO SKILLMAN

LGNA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Accentuate the Positive!

January's Lower Greenville Neighborhood Association membership meeting will be a celebration of good things that are happening in our area with a progress report on Greenville Avenue's many new improvements.

Put Wednesday, January 19, on your calendar. Our friends at Mextopia will help LGNA host an informal party to meet your neighbors and get acquainted with others who care about our area.

The Lower Greenville Neighborhood Association has been described as one of the most active neighborhood associations in the city. That activity would not be possible without *volunteers* who help LGNA thrive. LGNA is indeed an active organization, and it is not a one-man-band. If you're a neighborhood volunteer and/or want to hear more about our neighborhood, come to Mextopia, 2104 Greenville, 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 19.



NEXT LGNA MEETING

WHEN Wed. Jan 19th 7pm

WHERE Mextopia
2104 Greenville

TOPIC Lower Greenville
Improvements

BULK TRASH DATES

Pick Up: Dec 13-17

Earliest Set-Out: Dec 9

Pick Up: Jan 10-14

Earliest Set-Out: Jan 6

Pick Up: Feb 14-18

Earliest Set-Out: Feb 10

Remember: The city has a zero tolerance for placing trash out prior to the earliest set-out date. Don't get stuck with a fine for missing the date.

Lowest Greenville PD

The proposed Planned Development District for Lowest Greenville is scheduled to appear before City Plan Commission (CPC) in December.

Earlier this year, City Councilmembers Angela Hunt and Pauline Medrano proposed a Planned Development District (PD) to limit problem businesses on Greenville Avenue between Belmont and Bryan. The PD would require any business operating after midnight to obtain an SUP (Special Use Permit) from the city in order to remain open.

As explained by Councilmember Hunt at a community meeting in July, the PD would involve neighborhood input to grant SUPs for new businesses or known businesses that haven't caused problems. Or an SUP could be denied for bars that cause problems weekend after weekend. At the July meeting, presidents of six area neighborhood associations, including LGNA, urged consideration of the PD.

In August, the CPC held a public hearing to decide whether to authorize a public hearing on a late-hours PD for Lowest Greenville. Several neighborhood residents, including representatives of LGNA, attended and urged the CPC to authorize the hearing. After a brief discussion, the CPC did authorize a hearing.

The proposed PD was subsequently submitted to the City Planning Department. At that time, zoning change signs appeared at various locations along Lowest Greenville. If approved by the CPC, the proposed PD goes before the City Council after the first of the year.

Neighborhood residents are urged to attend the December CPC meeting, but it's possible that consideration of the PD may be delayed to a later date. Schedule progress will be reported on the LGNA website, www.LGNA.net, and via the LGNA Crime Watch alerts. To receive the Crime Watch alert, email CrimeWatch@LGNA.net.

USEFUL NUMBERS

Council Member Angela Hunt
214-670-5415

State Rep. Dan Branch
214-745-5768

DPD Officer Keith Allen
214-671-3477

Sanitation / Bulk Trash
214-670-3555

Code Compliance
214-670-5708

Animal Services **Call 311**

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 is your highest
crime concern for
LGNA?**

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT—A Night to Remember!

Tuesday, October 5, saw the seventh annual National Night Out in Tietze Park. In 2004, LGNA president Kathryn Willison saw a need to highlight what's good about Lower Greenville, and NNO has only gotten better over the years. This year, volunteers from three neighborhood associations – Lower Greenville, Lakewood Heights, and Lowest Greenville West – worked again to host the event. Approximately 800 area residents attended.

National Night Out is designed to strengthen community relationships between residents and public service organizations such as police, city departments and charitable organizations that serve the community. Visitors included City Councilmember Angela Hunt and her family. The Dallas Police Department sent several representatives including Deputy Chief Mike Genovesi, and SWAT officers spent time introducing kids and adults alike to the impressive SWAT truck. Also participating were two dozen exhibitors including area churches, Dallas city services, security and health providers, and neighborhood associations and crime watches.

Visitors took advantage of complimentary food and drinks, low-cost pet chipping by Second Chance SPCA, a bounce house and face painting for the kids, therapeutic massage for the grown-ups, music by recording artist and Munger Place UMC Music Director Kate Miner, a kids' free-throw contest, and a pie-eating contest for kids and adults.



KNOW your NEIGHBOR



"Enthusiastic" is a proper adjective for Mark Painter. Another is "knowledgeable." The well-known gardener and science teacher at Stonewall Jackson Elementary School visualizes the school's vegetable and flower garden as a laboratory to teach multiple facets of science.

Painter believes that an important principle is to maintain biodiversity. He gladly walks with visitors through the various garden sections – beginning at the Zen-like flower garden that attracts multitudes of butterflies, progressing through the extensive and well-maintained vegetable beds which include cotton plants along with the many vegetable varieties, and even proudly introducing visitors to the garden's newest acquisition, a small flock of various breeds of chickens.

Extremely knowledgeable (He can provide you with the name, both common and scientific, for every plant and most insects in the garden.), Mark believes that everything has a lesson. The shovel is an example of a lever. A broken tiller is an example of how one malfunctioning part affects the entire tiller "system." He teaches systems theory. "Everything is a system." A system might involve structures (plants, animals, machinery), cycles (weather, nutrients, life), or processes (photosynthesis, reproduction, respiration).

Mark's wife is also involved in his lessons. A second-grade teacher at Stonewall, she also participates in helping prepare displays such as their jelly made from the garden's plum tree.

Growing up in the Urbandale area of Dallas and then in Frisco, Mark says, "I can't imagine not staying busy." His relaxation is wood carving because he says that it's multi sensory. He displays a collection of hand-carved wooden spoons, naming each wood and explaining its qualities. And yes, he also involves the kids in that activity, providing them with rough spoon forms and sandpaper so that they can make their own.

Central to all the lessons found in the Stonewall garden is "Where does your food come from, and how does it affect your environment?" "If they don't learn these lessons," says Mark Painter, "we're in big trouble."

PAT CARR—VANDERBILT

Find some time this week to say hello to a new neighbor!



iWatch Dallas

Dallas Police Have a new program called iWatch Dallas (www.iWatchDallas.net) that provides easy options to report suspicious behavior to the police. It is to be used for those instances that don't require a police report, but that you do feel the police should be made aware of. Think of it as a next generation Tip Line. If you have any questions about the program, please contact our ENP Officer at enp@lgn.net. He is happy to help and would appreciate any feedback.

Community Thanksgiving

On November 23 area churches and neighborhood associations joined at the Skillman Church of Christ to celebrate Thanksgiving with a potluck feast. As in previous years, three neighborhood associations – Lower Greenville, Lakewood Heights, and Wilshire Heights – joined the Skillman Church of Christ, Lakewood United Methodist Church, and St. Andrews Presbyterian Church for a traditional dinner. A large crowd of area residents participated in an evening with extended neighborhood family.

The neighborhood associations and churches provided turkey, ham, drinks, and supplies. Neighbors were asked to bring donations of canned food for the North Texas Food Bank as well as their choice of a Thanksgiving side dish, casserole, or dessert.

Garage Sale Permit

Are you planning to have that garage sale now that the weather is cool, or perhaps planning your spring yard sale? Per a new City requirement that went into effect on October 1st; a \$15 permit fee is now required. This is an addition to the now effective requirements: a sale no more than three consecutive days, two times within a calendar year, no signs off-premise, and a sign no more than two square feet on the site of the sale. To download an application form, go to the City's website at dallascityhall.com to find a link.

POSITIVELY ENGAGING

The strength of the Lower Greenville Neighborhood Association lies in its members who share a passion and commitment for preserving and improving our Lower Greenville neighborhood.

LGNA is not just the newsletter you receive on your doorstep. LGNA is recognized by the city and other nearby neighborhood associations as a thoughtful and effective voice for our area's residents, accomplishing a variety of positive results in our neighborhood:



Serving our community through positive, professional and pro-active communication with neighborhood, civic and City entities

- Meeting with area City Council members and City officials regarding new development plans for Lowest Greenville
- Reaching out to and promoting new businesses on Greenville Ave.
- Supporting our neighborhood schools, churches, and area Scouting activities

Working together with neighbors to identify, encourage and promote interests and concerns of the neighborhood

- Working with area residents, at their request, to help resolve residential-street parking issues
- Communicating regularly with area police and City officials regarding neighborhood crime concerns and publishing Crime Watch updates
- Working together with area police, community members, other neighborhood associations, and merchants to minimize the impact of St. Patrick's Day activities and other large-scale events on neighborhoods

Promoting desirable development within and adjacent to neighborhood boundaries

- Actively participating in plans for improvement of the Lowest Greenville area
- Discussing future development with the City and owners of Lower Greenville properties affected by the March Greenville Ave. fire
- Interfacing with City officials, business owners, and property owners regarding zoning issues that directly impact our neighborhood

Representing all residents as a vital voice in our community and in the City of Dallas

If you share a vision for positive influence in our neighborhood, please consider becoming an active member of LGNA. Membership is open to both owners and renters. Included in this newsletter is a membership form which you can complete and mail.

DEBBIE DANIEL—ELLSWORTH

Fire Station #17 Gift Basket

Once again, LGNA will be collecting holiday treats for the firefighters and paramedics at Station 17. It's our way of saying "Thanks for watching out for us." Bring your cookies, brownies, or any other holiday treats to 5911 Goliad on Saturday, December 18th, between 10am-2pm. We'll assemble a basket for each of the three shifts and deliver the baskets that evening. To learn more, contact Darren Dattalo at darren@homesinthehoop.com.

JOB OPENING: Newsletter Editor

LGNA is looking for help with this newsletter. Specifically, we need someone that can layout the articles and photography. Most or all of the articles are written by neighborhood volunteers and will be collected and provided to the editor. The editor just needs to adjust the articles and photos to fit and do some occasional proofreading! We only do 6 newsletters per year, so this is not too time consuming. If you can help us out, please drop us a note at director1@ligna.net. The current template uses Microsoft Publisher.

Q&A Dig This!

Notes from a Neighborhood Gardener



Gardening is ELEMENTARY!

Volunteers tending the flower beds at Robert E. Lee Elementary enticed me to stop and inquire about the school's garden program. I was impressed with the well-tended beds in full bloom in November. In the courtyard, Earth Kind and Old Garden Roses, in vibrant red and pink bloom, were companioned with velvety purple Mexican Bush Sage, a variety of Salvia, Autumn Sage, Turk's Cap, Lantana, Blackfoot Daisy and Zinnias (favorite specimens for bird and butterfly gardens). Enthusiastic volunteers were amending the soil, dividing perennials, transplanting, deadheading and trimming. Vanloads of students arrived from other schools, anxious to tour the garden, hoping to get a peek in the giant wooden box labeled "worm farm". Susan Flanagan, master gardener and volunteer supervisor, impressed upon me what great opportunity exists in this valuable neighborhood program. Many students in this Title One school have never before experienced the joy of growing flowers and vegetables, the fostering of ladybugs and earthworms, the wonder of the cycles of butterflies and other creatures. Volunteers help students discover the magic of gardening with lessons related to Science, Math, and Literature as well as learning how to take care of the world they will inherit as adults. Susan is passionate about this school garden and offered this insight, "with very little funding from DISD the program depends on volunteers, a small fund raiser each spring and neighborhood support to keep the program afloat." Susan suggests donations of daffodil bulbs can be dropped off at the school or \$\$ (for plant labels, a garden shed or rain barrels) can be sent to Robert E. Lee Garden Program 2911 Delmar 75206. If you haven't done so yet, I invite you to visit the garden and experience this educational marvel with all your senses.

Send your gardening questions to Sara by email at:

digthisligna@yahoo.com.

**SARA WICK
PALO PINTO**



CRIME WATCH UPDATE

TIDE ROLLS OUT ON THE LOWER GREENVILLE CRIME WAVE

LGNA residents had a fairly rough summer with a wave of car break-ins and home burglaries that peaked in July with 30 BMVs and 21 burglaries & thefts. In addition to keeping everyone on notice, we got our ENP officer to ramp up his patrol hours for the following weeks. Happily, we were able to significantly reduce the number of these incidents in a fairly short time frame. Our October numbers came in far below normal for BMVs and burglaries & thefts. Unfortunately, we do not have enough funds in our ENP account to maintain the additional level of patrols and have returned to the regular level of 10 hours per week for the rest of the winter. If need arises again, we'll increase patrols hours to deal with it.

While the residential area has been fairly calm the last month or two, the same cannot be said for Greenville Ave. After yet another murder, this one involving patrons of Yucatan (formerly Malibu), the number of objections to the Planned Development is waning. LGNA is a strong supporter of this proposal. We believe that this will dramatically decrease the level of violent crime in that area immediately and improve quality of life in the long run. To stay up to date on this effort, be sure to join our email list by mailing crimewatch@lgna.net.

As Officer Keith mentions in his article to the right, holiday time can be almost a "kid in a candy store" for a lot of criminals. As the holidays approach, remember to use common sense with regard to visibility of all your toys and gadgets. In other words, don't leave a \$10,000 diamond in a box under the Christmas tree! And be careful about having packages left on your doorstep. That practically turns our porches into a shopping mall for thieves. If you buy yourself a nice new toy, break down the box and recycle it. Don't leave the box sitting on the curb announcing to the world that there is a new flat screen TV inside your home. **DARREN DATTALO, CRIME WATCH COORDINATOR**

	Residential Incidents	Car Break-Ins	Other Res. Thefts & Break-ins	Violent Crime**	Auto Theft
Sept- 2010	31	14	9	2	0
Oct-2010	16	6	6	1	0
Typical	32	16	9	3	2

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



Expanded Neighborhood Patrol Update

The Holidays

It seems as though football season just started and the State Fair just ended, but we're only days away from the beginning of the holiday season. This season we will experience the added "holiday" of Super Bowl XLV during the first week of February 2011. More on the impact of that later. Many of you will be traveling, and I would guess all of us will be extremely busy. The lesson those of us in law enforcement have learned about our first experience with a Super Bowl is the need for planning, advanced planning to be more precise. That lesson translates to all of our holiday plans.

Now is the time to start thinking about outdoor lighting. It isn't much fun to address the installation of new lighting or even replacing bulbs in existing lighting when the weather is windy, wet, or cold. I was at the hardware store and noted how the price of light timers has fallen. Even though I won't be traveling, I still purchased one for those times when I leave the house while it is still light and, despite my best intentions, don't return until after dark. Lighting is the number-one crime prevention tool. The time change has also caused a need for better awareness of darkness. Many of us have nice window treatments that we leave open during the day. After sunset our windows should be shielded from bad guys looking for an opportunity to "shop" for items to steal. Test it for yourself, as you are out walking or driving. Note how much you can see by looking at windows in your neighborhood. Flat-screen TVs, laptop computers, other electronic items are clearly visible. Imagine if you were a thief, wouldn't you like to know the location of valued property before you broke into the house. It makes the burglary much quicker. I would also encourage you to take time to lock your doors. This applies to both home and vehicle. The hectic pace we will all soon be on, the juggling of packages, the cell phone in one ear, all cause a loss of focus sometimes. As always, your neighborhood does a great job of looking out for one another, so take a moment when you can to note any suspicious activity. Have a safe holiday season. 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 65+)
- ☐ Join ENP (\$200/yr, \$150 for 65+)
- ☐ 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. Please provide separate checks if possible.

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).