

Crime Watch Report

LGNA's first Crime Watch meeting was on November 9th. Eleven of our neighbors came out for a brain-storming session to discuss ideas for addressing crime in our neighborhood.

It is obvious that different issues face the northern streets than face the southern streets where spill-over crime from commercial areas is the major contributor. The key to a successful crime watch will be to involve people on every block of the neighborhood.

It will take a while to reach that level of participation, so the group concluded that the best we can do at this time is to encourage and create ways for neighbors to meet each other.

Getting to know your neighbor is one of the easiest and most effective ways to fight crime. The Know Your Neighbor sheet accompanying this newsletter is a great way to get to know your neighbor! Be sure to meet your neighbors and fill it out.

The Crime Watch group discussed several other issues. One was the need for some neighborhood clean-up, specifically alley clean-ups and graffiti abatement.

Overgrown alleys provide a safe hiding place for criminals and prevent the police from doing their job. The majority of home break-ins occur from the alley. Be looking in the spring for an LGNA-sponsored Alley Clean-Up Day. We are also looking for volunteers willing to help out with graffiti abatement.

Our final topic was security issues. The Dallas Police offer a free security assessment for your home. You can contact Office Keith Allen at 214-670-0659 to schedule an assessment.

Neighborhood lighting was an area that generated a lot of interest but a lot of concern as well. The group will be looking at this in more detail in the future.

The next meeting of the Lower Greenville Crime Watch will be Saturday, January 21, at noon. Location is upstairs at Paperbacks Plus, LaVista at Live Oak. Please feel free to join us. In the meantime, if you would like to be on the Crime Watch e-mail list, drop a note to crimewatch@LGNA.net. You will receive a monthly update on crime activity in the area.

LGNA meeting – be there!

WHEN: Tuesday, Jan. 17, 7:00 p.m.

WHERE: Greenland Hills United Methodist Church at 5835 Penrose.

TOPIC: Dallas City Services

Dallas City Services, What You Need to Know

Do you have difficulty finding the right department and person to contact about an issue with a city service? You are not alone.

Jasmin Barnes, City Service Coordinator for Northeast Dallas, will be at the next LGNA meeting to discuss City Manager Mary Suhm's plan to improve city services. Ms. Barnes will discuss how to access city services and answer your questions and complaints about code compliance, sanitation, streets, planning and development, and other city departments.

Mark Tuesday, January 17th, on your calendar, and plan to be at Greenland Hills United Methodist Church on Penrose and Delmar at 7:00 p.m.

Crime Alert – Serial Rapist

Dallas police say attacks in several areas, including locations close to Lower Greenville, may be connected with a serial rapist who has been at large since April. An attack at an apartment parking lot off Abrams Road occurred in December. Other attacks have been near Fitzhugh and Central Expy., Central Expy. and Walnut Hill, and at an apartment in Deep Ellum. Other possibly related attacks have been in Plano, Garland, Richardson, and Coppell.

The attacks have generally occurred in the evening or early-morning hours. Many cases involved women who were getting into or out of their cars at their homes or apartments. Attacks have occurred at single-family homes and apartment complexes.

Police strongly advise everyone to be alert when arriving home during the late hours as well as when leaving home early in the morning . Have your keys ready when you walk to your car. Get in the car, lock the door, and drive away as quickly as you can from where you are. Be aware of your surroundings. If you see a suspicious man, drive away and then call 911.

For further details, see the story on www.lgna.net.

Holiday Yard-Decorating

Several folks mentioned that more and more residents are decorating their yards for the holidays. That may make a feast for the eyes, but it was tough to pick the best of so many very good efforts.

LGNA's judging elves selected ten homes as overall winners. Based on artistry, originality, effort, whimsy, and (sometimes) wattage, the elves selected the following winners:

5901 Palo Pinto, 5923 Winton, 5942 Llano, 6055 Anita, 5929 Lewis 6017 Martel, 6022 Belmont, 5715 Monticello, 5934 Vanderbilt, and 5925 Revere.

Many thanks to our neighborhood merchants for their generous prize contributions – Blue Goose Cantina, Guaranty Bank, Pet Supplies “Plus,” Walgreen's, and Whole Foods Market. Be sure to say “thank you” when you visit their locations.

Library Facts You Should Know

At LGNA's November meeting, Christina Worden and Ed Palmer provided information on the many

resources available at Dallas Public Libraries. We are fortunate that our neighborhood has easy access to three libraries – the Lakewood branch, the Skillman-Southwestern branch and the Central library downtown. Information on branch locations and hours is found at: www.dallaslibrary.org.

Our libraries have “best-sellers,” DVDs and books-on-tape, and they are a great place to research everything from art history to zoning. Library cards are free to Dallas residents (parental signature required for all children under 15).

Did you know that you can request materials from any branch online and pick them up at a nearby branch? You can also renew checked-out items online or by phone. In addition to community events and programs such as story time and book reviews, the library offers classes for learning English as a second language.

See www.lgna.net for more about library resources and ways you can support the library system.

Fire Station Support

Kudos to Darren Dattalo for spear-heading the December neighborhood thank-you to firefighters of Station #17 at Belmont and Skillman. For the second year, neighborhood residents filled a basket of homemade (and store-bought) goodies for Station #17 and signed a card saying “Thank You” to those who protect us.

Help Your Dog Be a Good Neighbor!

We live in a great place for dogs – sidewalks, plenty of squirrels, lots of good sniffing...

Please remember to take a plastic bag (or two) to scoop the poop when you walk your dog. Dallas City ordinances require that dog walkers carry a bag or some other device for removal of poop from public or

private property (other than your own yard). This includes streets and the area between the sidewalk and the curb.

Also, please take the bag home with you rather than using a neighbor's trashcan. Since sanitation workers usually lift garbage bags out of the can, small bags at the bottom of the trashcan aren't always removed.

Info on pooper-scooper and leash laws, as well as related information on animal control, is available at http://www.dallascityhall.com/dallas/eng/html/animal_control.html. Your neighbors will appreciate your respect for their yards!

St. Patrick's Reminder

Yes, once a year St. Patrick comes around in March to bring green and patrons and cars to the Lower Greenville area. The annual St. Patrick's block party and festivities will be Saturday, March 11. Check the LGNA website www.lgna.net in March for info on the event and the limited parking on residential streets. LGNA will again help the city of Dallas by assembling and placing signs. If you can help, send an e-mail to Director1@lgna.net

The LGNA Newsletter is made possible by neighborhood contributors. Thanks to Metropolitan Press for providing printing.

For information on joining LGNA or renewing your dues, go to www.lgna.net.

LGNA BOARD OF DIRECTORS		
Kathryn Willison	PRESIDENT	214-956-4593
Gay Hopkins	VICE-PRESIDENT	214-827-4559
Patricia Carr	TREASURER	214-821-2562
Diane Evans	SECRETARY	214-828-1040
Darren Dattalo	DIRECTOR	214-476-8023
Michele Houston	DIRECTOR	214-827-4214
Steve Howard	DIRECTOR	214-887-3450
Paul Wehrle	DIRECTOR	214-823-5140

IMPORTANT CITY LINES		
Angela Hunt		214-670-5415
ICP Officer Keith Allen		214-670-0659
Action Center	214-670-5111 or 311	
Sanitation/Bulk Trash	214-670-3555	
Code Compliance	214-670-5708	
Animal Control	214-670-5111 or 311	