

The pretty park on the edge of town

Originally named Keith Park, the initial portion of what is now Tietze Park was purchased in 1924 by the City of Dallas, when it was at the edge of town. The balance of the park land was added by W.R. Tietze, Superintendent of Parks from 1896 to 1933. The year after his retirement, the park was renamed in his honor.

Now bounded by Llano, Clements, Vanderbilt, and Skillman, the 9-acre park is a remarkably diverse collection of park attractions: swimming pool, tennis court, baseball diamonds, basketball court, children's playground, picnic areas, lovely trees and open areas. Perhaps the most remarkable natural aspect of the park, beyond the 75 mature oak, live oak, and cedar trees are the "kneeling" bois d' arcs. We are lucky to have them still, for in the late 1980s the city sent crews to remove the trees and were dissuaded only through the personal efforts of local residents.

Another natural aspect of the park is no longer – the creek which is now Skillman Street. Apparently used as a road for most of the dry part of the year, the creek was eventually channelized and covered over by a paved road sometime in the late 1920s or 1930s. However, it was not named Skillman at that time. Beginning in 1927, to celebrate the accomplishment of Charles Lindbergh's trans-Atlantic flight, it became Lindbergh Boulevard. Since it was essentially a creek bed, the joke was that the best way to traverse Lindbergh Boulevard was by air. When Lindbergh lost the public's approbation during World War II due to suspicions of being a German-sympathizer, the street became Skillman, named for banker W.F. Skillman, president of Prudential Building and Loan.

W.R. Tietze, as Superintendent of Parks, was perhaps the first "professional" Dallas had at the helm. He created a number of parks, enlarged others, purchased tools and equipment for use in developing and maintaining the parks (Upon taking his post, the valuation of the first inventory of tools was \$15.). He was also responsible for building the first greenhouses and planting the first flowers in Dallas City Parks.

LGNA meeting – be there!

WHEN: Tuesday, Sept. 19, 7:00 p.m.

WHERE: Greenland Hills United Methodist Church at 5835 Penrose.

TOPIC: Tietze Park renovation and Hazardous chemical collection

LGNA meetings are held the third Tuesday of odd-numbered months. The final meeting of 2006 will be on November 21.

Do you want to know about a face lift?

Tietze Park will be getting a face lift. Come to the LGNA meeting on Tuesday, September 19, 7:00 p.m. at GHUMC, Penrose at Delmar. You can meet representatives from the Friends of Tietze Park Foundation who will share the renovation plans funded by a city bond program and private donations. Tietze is the first city park to have wireless Internet connection. Future improvements include a new toddler playground. Fun Stuff! Be a part of it!

Household hazardous chemical collection

To assist neighbors in disposing of hazardous and chemical waste, LGNA will accept materials for disposal at the September meeting. Various items such as oil filters, used motor oil, antifreeze, batteries, paint products, and yard chemicals will be accepted. Materials will be taken to the county's Home Chemical Collection Center. HC3 does not accept business/medical waste, electronics, explosive/shock-sensitive materials, containers larger than five (5) gallons, smoke detectors or other radioactive materials, or common household recyclables such as plastic, glass or aluminum.

We will be accepting home chemicals from 6:45 p.m. to 8.00 p.m. in the church parking lot on September 19 only. Please do not bring items inside the church or leave items at any other time.

The HC3, located at 11234 Plano Road, has extended hours on Tuesdays and is open on two Saturdays per month if you are not able to attend on September 19.

At LGNA’s last collection event, a pickup truck-load of hazardous household chemicals was collected for next-day disposal at HC3. Thank you for helping dispose of these chemicals properly.

National Night Out - A night to remember

Several years ago, we saw a need to highlight what’s good about Lower Greenville. This year, for our third consecutive National Night Out, volunteers from three neighborhoods— LGNA, Lowest Greenville West NA, and Lakewood Heights NA – worked together to host the event in Tietze Park. The area represented 4,500 households.

At least 750 people attended and had an opportunity to show their support of DPD by meeting officers from many divisions of DPD and talk about strengthening our stance to diminish criminal activity. More than 150 FBI-donated fingerprint and DNA-identification kits for children were handed out. Carter Blood Care collected 20 units of life-saving blood. In addition, a score of public- and city-service organizations participated.

Residents who came to the park enjoyed hotdogs, soft drinks and snow cones donated by local merchants. Adults had the opportunity to be treated to chair massages while kids had fun getting their faces painted with dragons and butterflies.

Did you miss out? National Night Out is an annual event held the first Tuesday of August. Put it on your

calendar for next year. Volunteers spend many months planning this event for their neighbors to enjoy.

You can get involved in National Night Out next year. Just contact President@LGNA.net and let us know you’d like to participate.

It’s not about ME, it’s about WE. It’s OUR neighborhood. Let’s come together to make it safer and even more enjoyable.

Crime Watch

A big thanks to all who visited the Crime Watch table at National Night Out. Volunteers interviewed visitors and collected surveys that will help determine priorities for the Lower Greenville Crime Watch. The numbers are being crunched and should be published with next month’s crime stats. To receive a monthly report, contact CrimeWatch@LGNA.net.

A few DNA/fingerprint kits for kids are left over. If you would like one for a relative or neighbor, drop a note to CrimeWatch@LGNA.net. This is a great safety measure in the event a child is ever abducted.

MontiDelConcho

A neighbourhood resident invented the name “MontiDelConcho” for the 5900 block of Monticello which is bound by Delmar on the west and Concho on the east. The block is home for a very close-knit group of neighbors who for many years have made a point of meeting, getting to know each other, and helping maintain neighborhood security.

Every year sees a block party. A planning party organizes volunteers for various activities including invitations, street closure petitions, collection of money for the catered barbecue dinner, games, souvenirs, etc. Everyone is encouraged to bring a covered dish. There are also prizes for the dessert competition.

In addition, residents invite firemen from Station 17 to attend, as well

as the police department. The firemen bring a hook and ladder truck that the kids just love. Other events include games for both kids and adults, including a piñata, water balloon toss, and frisbee golf.

One of the side benefits to the annual party is the creation and maintenance of a “MontiDelConcho” block list. It contains the names, addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses for all the neighbors in the 5900 block (as well as a few surrounding neighbors who enjoy participating).

Because of the social connections, everyone looks out for each other. As a result, residents perceive less crime than other areas. To quote one resident, “Life is good in MontiDelConcho.”

Your neighbors need you

The LGNA newsletter is distributed door-to-door by volunteers. More volunteers are now needed, especially along Ross, La Vista, McCommas, Revere, Goodwin, and Martel.

The newsletter is distibuted 6 times a year, and takes less than an hour to distribute a typical 4-block area. If you can help your neighborhood by delivering at least one of these streets, please contact Director1@LGNA.net, or call 214-821-2562.

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.

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