



LGNA

LOWER
GREENVILLE
NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION

SEP / OCT 2009

MOCKINGBIRD TO ROSS / GREENVILLE TO SKILLMAN

LGNA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Patricia Carr **PRESIDENT**
214-821-2562

Gay Hopkins **VICE PRESIDENT**
214-827-4559

Alan Schonborn **TREASURER**
214-823-4057

Philip Kingston **SECRETARY**
214-642-1707

Darren Dattalo **CRIME WATCH**
214-476-8023

Peter Loh **DIRECTOR**
214-999-4391

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 2009



For the sixth 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.

National Night Out is designed to strengthen community relationship between residents and public service organizations such as police, city departments and charitable organizations that serve the community. Approximately 5,000 households are represented by these three organizations, and our event generates 700+ attendees each year. The date for this year's event will be Tuesday, October 6, 2009, from 5:30-8:30 pm, once again at Tietze Park.

The party will be in the center Pavilion area of the park. We will have numerous city departments available to answer your questions and plenty of police officers to talk to about crime concerns. In addition, we will have exhibits from charitable organizations such as Genesis Women's Shelter, Habitat for Humanity and the Lakewood Service League. As usual we will have the face painters, hotdogs and the kids free-throw contest. New this year, American Power Yoga (located above Jason's deli on Mockingbird) will be doing yoga demonstrations for both kids and adults. And if ever worried about a lost pet, take advantage of low cost pet micro-chipping being offered by Second Chance SPCA for only \$20. (Please keep all pets on leashes or in crates.)

This is a great opportunity to have some fun, meet some neighbors and learn a little something about health and safety. Look for the light blue flyer on your doorstep. The event will take the place of our regularly scheduled November LGNA meeting. Be sure to save the date!

LGNA RECYCLING DATES

Residents living on Lewis and Ross:

Sep 24, Oct 8, Oct 22, Nov 5, Nov 19

All Other Streets:

Sep 17, Oct 1, Oct 15, Oct 29, Nov 12

LGNA BULK TRASH DATES

All Streets

Sep 14-18, Oct 12-16, Nov 9-13, Dec 14-18
Earliest Set-Out Dates: Sep 11, Oct 9, Nov 6, Dec 11

CLIP AND SAVE

NEXT LGNA MEETING

WHEN Tues. Oct. 6 5:30pm

WHERE Tietze Park
Center Pavillion
2700 Skillman

TOPIC National Night Out
At Tietze Park

in this issue



- ◆ LGNA Pot Luck
- ◆ Neighborhood Boot Camp
- ◆ Sidewalk Paving
- ◆ Tietze Park Birthday
- ◆ Know Your Neighbor
- ◆ Dig This: Ask A
Neighborhood Gardener
- ◆ 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:
*How concerned are you
about stray and feral animals
in the neighborhood?*

Neighborhood Leadership Boot Camp 2009

The Dallas Homeowners League annually provides speakers, workshops, and networking opportunities at its Boot Camp, a conference aimed at educating neighborhood leaders and volunteers and arming them with the skills to help their areas. Held at City Hall, this year's event featured visionary speakers including WFAA's Gloria Campos who described the benefits of neighborhood participation.

This year the Lower Greenville Neighborhood Association invited area volunteers to participate, and a full dozen LGNA members attended. Participants attended eight breakout sessions which included Handling Zoning Issues, Foreclosures & Property Values, New Vitality/Innovative Projects, Sustainable Home/Sustainable Neighborhood, and Crime Watch/Public Safety Resources.

The LGNA contingent of Elaine Bodle, Patricia Carr, Christine Cepelak, Rusty and Debbie Daniel, Darren Dattalo, David Jones, Gay Hopkins, Philip and Melissa Kingston, Pam Mueller, and Bettye Scoville agreed that the speakers and workshops provided interesting and useful information for helping our neighborhood. After the conference LGNA hosted a lunch where volunteers shared ideas, experiences, and neighborhood goals.

Participants said that the sessions and ensuing discussions at lunch were dynamic and inspiring. Look to future issues of this newsletter for projects and results generated by ideas from Boot Camp.



KNOW your NEIGHBORS

"We have done what we can through the years simply to ensure that our street and neighborhood continue to evolve in a positive way." So say Debbie and Rusty Daniel, long-time residents on Ellsworth. "We have great neighbors," says Rusty, and the neighbors on their block work at cultivating and maintaining neighborliness.

Rusty maintains a block map with contact info of residents on the block. The map was started 15 years ago, and Rusty updates it whenever a new neighbor moves in. Residents rely on the block map to maintain contact and security. One neighbor carries the block map when traveling and recently called the Daniel home, asking Rusty to check on an alarm at the house. Neighbors also get together for occasional block parties.

A few years ago, Rusty and other neighbors worked to gather petition signatures for speed bumps on Ellsworth when a speeding motorist struck a neighbor's dog. Unfortunately, the City designates Ellsworth as an emergency thoroughfare, and the speed bumps were not permitted. Recently residents gathered with LGNA CrimeWatch members to gain perspective and share solutions on how to lessen the impact of recent traffic and parking issues on their block.

Rusty is retired from Alcatel and spends three days a week volunteering at Habitat for Humanity and one day a week playing golf. Debbie is a retired teacher and now substitute teaches on a regular basis. She also is a member of an expert hand-bell ensemble at Highland Park Presbyterian Church. Their family includes Chelsea, a designer-breed dog who loves to do tricks – frequently even without prompting.

The Daniels recommend that you know your neighbors and look out for each other. Says Debbie, "It's important to know the neighbors and have conversations about what's going on on the block and find solutions. Doing those things makes a safer place to live."

To get started on your own block map, download the "Know Your Neighbor" grid from the LGNA website at www.LGNA.net.



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.



The City of Dallas' *New Throne for Your Home* program provides \$90 vouchers toward the purchase of new low-flow toilets to replace old-style high-flow toilets in homes built before 1992. The program is limited to single-family homes only and must be used to replace an old-style toilet, and the old large-capacity toilets cannot be reused. Call 214-670-3155.



Garden Volunteers Needed

Robert E. Lee Elementary is asking for area volunteers to help maintain their courtyard butterfly garden and the newly landscaped areas. For information, call 972-749-7400.

Those Curly Light Bulbs

Many of us have already switched to using compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs. They are long-lasting and economical. However, CFL bulbs contain mercury – a potent neurotoxin – and should not be placed with normal trash. The bulbs may break and contaminate the ground or pose danger to sanitation employees. What do we do with them when they've burned out?

Home Depot is offering a free disposal service for CFL bulbs. Bring your expired, unbroken CFL bulbs to any Home Depot store and give them to the associate behind the returns desk. Those bulbs will then be managed responsibly by an environmental management company. Thanks to Home Depot for this necessary service!

Sanitation Holidays

Sanitation pickups in the LGNA boundaries – Ross to Mockingbird, Greenville to Skillman – are currently on Mondays and Thursdays. What happens to our service when a government holiday falls on one of those days? Gary Middleton, Collections Operations Manager, tells us that Sanitation works all holidays except Thursday and Friday of Thanksgiving week, Christmas, and New Years Day. The City has also announced that the new "furlough days" will have no service impact on Sanitation. Also, the McCommas Bluff Landfill and all Transfer Stations will operate regular hours.

Clean-Up on Greenville Ave. Property

The vacant building at the corner of Greenville and Ross has been purchased by Centric Capital Partners. Neighborhood residents may have noticed that one of the firm's first moves was to repaint the building. According to Charlie Corson, the firm's founder, "We intend to be a good neighbor." Corson says they want to use the building for retail, and immediate plans include cleaning up the property and repainting the building again to something "more elegant." LGNA looks forward to working with Centric Capital Partners toward improving our neighborhood.

Friends & Food! POT LUCK 2009

The first annual LGNA July potluck dinner was held in 1991. Ensuing years have seen its evolution into a summer social attended by close to 100 people.

The 2009 summer social at Greenland Hills UMC saw five long tables laden with delicious food. Neighbors brought salads, side dishes, and desserts. The Greenville Commerce Association generously donated a table-load of fajita fixings from Blue Goose Cantina as well as gallons of shrimp cocktail from Aw Shucks. Matt Mortimer was present to supervise the catering and join in the fun.



Blue Goose and Aw Shucks, both located on Greenville Avenue, donated several gift certificates as prizes in the various contests. The Kingston family, Philip and Melissa, took home the honors for first and second place in the Salsa Contest. The Dip Contest's first-place honors were taken by Ryan Trimble, District Director for State Representative Dan Branch. The second-place Dip Contest gift certificate went to Mary Jane Smith. Janis Coffman brought a crew of her neighbors to win the bring-your-neighbors contest.

LGNA recognized those who put that extra bit of effort into maintaining and improving quality of life in LGNA's neighborhood. DPD superheroes – DPD Officer Keith Patton who is one of LGNA's ENP officers, Lt. Kimberly Owens, and Deputy Chief Vince Golbeck – received enthusiastic applause from those at the dinner.

Also recognized as residents who go that extra step were Stan and Dina Smith. Stan and Dina have been collecting petition signatures for a four-way stop sign at Marquita and Delmar, close to R.E. Lee school. Rusty and Debbie Daniel were recognized for their work on petitioning for additional corner no-parking signs on Kenwood. All of us in this area are grateful for neighbors who see a problem and, rather than complaining and waiting for someone else to fix it, take steps to improve the situation.

PATRICIA CARR, LGNA PRESIDENT



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Three neighborhood associations—Lakewood Heights, Lower Greenville, and Wilshire Heights – joined Friends of Tietze Park Foundation in sponsoring a multineighborhood birthday party at Tietze Park pool. Held on Saturday, July 25, party-goers were treated to a free swim, hot dogs, soft drinks, and ice cream. The park was acquired in 1924 by the City of Dallas, when it was on the northeast fringe of Dallas. At that time it was named Keith Park. Ten years later it was renamed Tietze Park, after W.R. Tietze, who was Superintendent of Parks for the city from 1896-1933. The park today is one of the most used and most popular urban parks in Dallas.

HIT THE PAVEMENT!

The City of Dallas offers two sidewalk replacement programs. While homeowners must pay at least half of the cost, both programs offer warranted work done by insured, bonded contractors without residents incurring the effort and expense of securing a building permit and locating a contractor.

With the "Cost Share" program, the City partners with residents to share 50/50 in the cost of replacement sidewalks. Funding for the City's share of the cost comes from Capital Bond programs, but those funds are limited. Residents may have to wait until funding is available – 18 months to three years. Repairs are made on a first-come, first-served basis until the City funding is depleted.

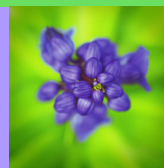
"Fast Fix" is a 100% resident-funded program to replace sidewalks, curbs, gutters, and drive approaches. The advantage is that there is a relatively short waiting period. Through the City's existing price agreement with a contractor, the property owner pays 100% of the repair cost prior to the work being done.

The City points out that when a sidewalk, drive approach, or any appurtenance becomes defective, unsafe or hazardous, the property owner is responsible for repair or replacement. For more information on sidewalk-replacement programs, call 214-948-4287.



Q&A Dig This!

Notes from a Neighborhood Gardener



Pet Peeves of a neighborhood gardener... Let me rant about a few things that concern me with my four-legged neighbors and their owners. Two of my most frightening gardening experiences were being held captive on my front porch while an unleashed dog salivated in my front yard and being startled by a pack of "wild" dogs racing through my backyard in search of fresh meat. Thank god I'm well over 20 and not near fresh enough for them! I see neighbors out walking dogs off-leash or on long leashes rampaging through gardens and lawns not theirs. Please be aware, not every animal is people friendly and not every person is pet friendly.

An otherwise enjoyable evening walk can be ruined by a mishap with dog poop not properly scooped by the pet owner. Contrary to popular belief, dog and cat excrement are NOT good for gardens. Sticking my hand into my flower bed and finding something other than dirt can ruin an otherwise therapeutic day of gardening... Then there's the outdoor feeding of domestic pets. This attracts rodents, possums, raccoons and worsens the feral cat problem in our neighborhood. So, be a good neighbor, leash, scoop, neuter and don't feed the rodents.

OK, maybe 3 months of TX summer heat has made me a little irritable and I need a good cool weekend for "dig in the dirt" therapy. Guess it's time to get out and move irises, thin daylilies, plant daffodils, add fall color, plant winter greens in the kitchen garden, harvest the basil for a winter stash of pesto and muddle a little more mint for one last refreshing mojito before the leaves begin to fall.

Send your gardening questions to Sara by email at:

digthislgna@yahoo.com.

**SARA WICK
PALO PINTO**



CRIME WATCH UPDATE

12. While that isn't the number of times I've been burglarized, it sometimes feels that way. After ten years in the neighborhood, I experienced my fourth burglary in August. Once again I was reminded of the frustration we all feel at this type of invasion into our personal space. It's the reason I started a crime watch effort and the reason so many of you have signed up for our email list and for our Extended Neighborhood Patrol program.

As most of you know, we are experiencing an increase in home burglaries. The media has covered the story, and crime alerts have been sent out. As I write this, the bad guy is still at large, but the Dallas Police are working the case hard. It appears that this is not all the work of one bad guy. A cluster of burglaries have occurred in the area between Llano and Morningside, mostly in the 5900 and 6000 blocks. In this area, the burglaries occurred in the wee morning hours of 2am to 5am. Another 6 burglaries (including mine) have occurred outside this area and at different times of day. These are thought to be different culprits.

12 is the number of burglaries in August. This does not include thefts off the porch; it is home break-ins. You would be surprised at how many great tips we've received from neighbors helping us to connect these crimes and focus attention in the right place. Unfortunately, you would also be surprised at how many of these were the result of an unlocked door or window. The victim is *never* at fault in the commission of a crime, but a little common sense goes a long way. Close your door. Lock your door. Leave your porch light on. Put an inside light on a timer. While all the precautions in the world will not guarantee your safety, they might make the bad guy think twice about your home in particular. And if he has to think twice often enough, maybe he'll leave the neighborhood entirely.

If you'd like to be added to our crime watch email list, or if you'd like more information on our Extended Neighborhood Patrol program, please drop me an email at crimewatch@ligna.net. See you at National Night Out on Oct. 6th!

DARREN DATTALO, CRIME WATCH COORDINATOR

	Residential Incidents	Car Break-Ins	Other Res. Thefts & Break-ins	Violent Crime**	Auto Theft
Jun 2009	20	12	13	6	0
Jul 2009	32	12	14	2	3
Typical	28	14	9	4	2

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



Expanded Neighborhood Patrol Update

36. No, that number is not my IQ although on some days it doesn't seem like it is that much higher. There has been much discussion about the intruder that has been committing crimes in your neighborhood. I know there have been crime alerts sent out from your neighborhood, Texas Crime Stoppers and a public news release from our Police Media Relations Unit about the offenses. We share all our data with you via our website (www.dallaspolice.net) as well as emails, phone calls, individual substation websites, and in old fashioned conversation. As a neighborhood, you have done a tremendous job of sharing with us noteworthy events. The email system you have is extremely valuable. It is shocking that with all the communication, information sharing, and notices that, as of last week, we still experienced more than one victim who left their doors unlocked. The shock in no way blames the victim. If the opportunity presents itself please speak with your neighbors, remind them to lock their doors, and explain why. Being cautious is not the same as being in fear.

36 is the number of minutes it took for a senior citizen to contact me after the email blasts went out. She lives by herself and was worried because she normally goes to the store in the afternoon, but someone called her and told her of the intruder striking between 2-5. She only recently became comfortable with email and only checks it once a week. I patiently explained that it was 2-5 in the morning and that going to the store in the afternoon was fine. She told me she always locks her doors and found it odd that the police would have to remind folks of this, "that's just silly". She asked me why people don't "just use their common sense, then you won't have to scare folks". I replied that our alerts were designed to remind people to use their commonsense, but we forget that not everyone checks their email every 30 seconds like I do, so I would personally call her from now on. Even we "email experts" could use some conversation. Take care.

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).