

LGNA

LOWER
GREENVILLE
NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION



MARCH • APRIL 2011

MOCKINGBIRD TO ROSS / GREENVILLE TO SKILLMAN

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214-670-3555

Code Compliance
214-670-5708

Animal Services Call 311



MARCH MEETING

A CHANCE TO HELP YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Every year, LGNA hosts two events that are critical to our neighborhood's quality of life. Both events involve the St. Patrick's no-parking signs that help protect our neighborhood. This year we will construct and post 750+ temporary signs.

The first event – sign-construction – takes place on the Saturday morning before St. Patrick's weekend. Sign-construction starts at 9am on **Saturday, March 5**, at the Dallas Police Department storefront, 4545 Bryan Street. Especially needed are neighbors who have trucks or other vehicles to transport the constructed signs to the sign-posting location. Show up any time between 9am and 11am. (If you have one, bring a hammer or mallet.)

The sign-posting party takes place the Thursday evening before the St. Pat's events – **Thursday, March 10**, anytime between 4-7pm at 5843 Vanderbilt, and it will be the official March LGNA membership meeting. Needed are volunteers to drive teams of Scouts who will post the signs on streets between Ross and Winton. (Again, hammers and mallets are welcome.)

Join LGNA volunteers, Boy Scouts, and DPD in two fun events that will benefit yourself and your neighbors. Courtesy of LGNA and our good friends at Blue Goose and Capital Pub, a light meal will be served on both Saturday and Thursday. For more details, email Director1@LGNA.net.

NACHOS AND NEWS

A standing-room-only crowd attended the LGNA's January meeting at Mextopia Restaurant. LGNA president Patricia Carr gave an update on preparations for St. Patrick's. Carr also provided an update on the rebuilding of the fire-damaged building in the 2800 block of Greenville. LGNA and other area neighborhood



associations have been meeting with the property and business owners, and City staff to ensure that the rebuild remains compatible with the neighborhood.

Murray Myers from Council-member Angela Hunt's office gave an explanation of the Lowest Greenville Planned Development

District. (See separate article.) He also explained street and sidewalk improvements and beautification for two blocks of Greenville between Bell and Alta. Improvement work will begin this summer and will be funded by 2006 bond monies.

Jon Hetzel from Madison Partners gave details on the planned food-trailer park on the property in the 2100 block of Greenville where the Arcadia Theater was located. He said that they will observe neighborhood concerns about noise and intrusive light, parking, and traffic. Current plans call for 6-10 Airstream trailers, as well as picnic-style seating, restrooms, and other amenities.

As special guest, members of Boy Scout Troop 42 who are working on Citizenship badges were also in attendance. The Scouts asked several intelligent questions of the speakers and were excellent participants in the meeting.

NEXT MEETING

WHEN THURSDAY March 10
4-7:00 PM

WHERE 5843 Vanderbilt

TOPIC St. Pat's No-Parking
Sign Party

BULK TRASH DATE

PICK UP: March 14-18
EARLIEST SET-OUT: March 10

PICK UP: April 11-15
EARLIEST SET-OUT: April 7

PICK UP: May 9-13
EARLIEST SET-OUT: May 5

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.



**LOG ON TO
WWW.LGNA.NET**
for information
and updates.

KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS



Charles and Pat Salvaggio

You may not know the Salvaggios, but we can bet you've seen their home, possibly one of the most asked about homes along Greenville Ave. Their home, which sits as the Crown Jewel Of Greenville Avenue at Belmont and Greenville, was built around 1918 and was one of the first homes constructed in the neighborhood. Pat had an eye on this home for a while, and it came on the market in 1996 while she and Charles were looking for a home. After several years of sweat equity, Pat and Charles have turned their home into one of the most admired and most talked-about homes in the area.

Pat works for CVS Caremark while Charles owns a commercial and residential construction company, Salvaggio Enterprises. Despite having demanding work schedules, Pat and Charles are active members of the community. In addition to being members of the Italian Club of Dallas, Pat is the secretary of the Irish American Society (IAS). IAS seeks to celebrate Irish culture at numerous parties and events around town. IAS also hosts Pub Nights and an annual St. Patrick's Day Ball. Pat and Charles are also the chairs of the IAS presence for the Greenville St. Pat's Parade. The couple is also active in supporting the Texas Rose of Tralee, an international pageant of sorts held in Tralee, Ireland where a young girl is selected to represent Ireland culture around the world.

As if living with an international flair were not enough, they have been active in the neighborhood as long as they have lived here. Pat currently serves as a street captain for the Belmont Addition Conservation District. For several years running Pat coordinated a huge block party for the BACD which raised thousands of dollars for neighborhood improvement projects.

Pat and Charles are joined in their home by Taco the Chihuahua, a Chinese Crested Hairless named Kitzee, and Jelli Beane – a parrot; not to mention a backyard pond full of more giant goldfish than you can count.

LOWEST GREENVILLE PD PASSES



For over a year, LGNA along with Greenland Hills, Vickery Place, Hudson Heights, Lowest Greenville West and the Belmont NAs have worked with Councilmembers Hunt and Medrano and CPC Commissioner Bill Peterson to create a Planned Development District along Lowest Greenville Ave from Belmont down to Bryan. With support of a couple of the major property owners and several business owners, the City Council officially passed the PD on January 26 in a unanimous vote.

Going forward, businesses which wish to operate past midnight will need to get a Special Use Permit from the city in order to remain open after midnight. LGNA and the other NAs in the area are committed to supporting neighborhood-friendly businesses, and we will continue to support them when they apply for their permits. Although final decisions are made by the City, for those businesses that continue to foster a criminal atmosphere, LGNA will oppose their applications.

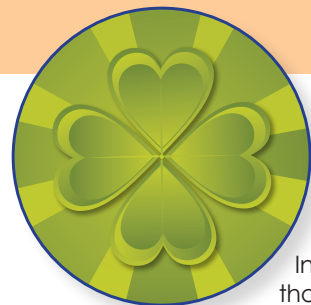
There has been a great deal of negativity from the opponents of this PD, predicting mass business closures. Getting rid of bad actors is the whole point. But these bad actors are outnumbered by the large number of current vacancies caused by the criminal behavior in the area. A safer atmosphere will attract more businesses with an opportunity for profit during hours outside of late-night hours. In fact, we've already heard from one business that was waiting to make a move-in decision based on the outcome of the PD. With the city's plan for two blocks of streetscape improvements and Madison Partners' plans for the old Arcadia site, we're expecting dramatic changes to the Lowest Greenville area in the next 12-18 months. There will be a lot of construction and turnover during that transition, but we believe the investment will pay off for both the business community and the neighborhood.

LGNA Round Up

Dirt to Finally Fly at Tietze Park After much hard work led by the Friends of Tietze Park Foundation (FOTPF), construction on new enhancements to Tietze Park will be completed by November 2011. Councilmember Hunt said that there will be a new loop trail around the entire park as well as new connecting sidewalks to join some of the existing pathways. There will also be several new benches, a new ADA-approved water fountain, new trash receptacles, new picnic tables, and a portable restroom enclosure. The \$254,808 cost of this project is paid for with 2006 Bond funds. There will also be a shade structure funded by FOTPF and installation of brick pavers sold as a fund-raiser by FOTPF.

Rock 'n' Roll Alert – Street Closings The Rock 'n' Roll half-marathon will take place and have a major impact on our neighborhood on Sunday, March 27. As well as forcing traffic to use neighborhood streets, two area thoroughfares will be part of the half-marathon course. Mockingbird and Skillman are again partially closed on **Sunday morning, March 27**. Traffic will be slow, and it will be difficult to cross these two streets. It's recommended that you plan ahead if you intend to drive on Sunday morning. Mockingbird eastbound will be closed between Airline Road (east of Central) and Skillman from 7:00-11:30 a.m. One eastbound lane of Mockingbird will remain open. Skillman will be closed between Mockingbird and Swiss Avenue from 7:00 a.m. to noon. One northbound lane of Skillman will be open between Live Oak and Mockingbird.

Save Your Shredding TietzeShred 4 is coming on **Saturday, March 26**. Brinks Document Destruction will provide on-site document shredding 9am-1pm in the parking lot of Skillman Church of Christ, 3014 Skillman. There is a nominal cost, with a reduced rate for seniors. Proceeds benefit Friends of Tietze Park Foundation.



ST. PATRICK'S WORKING TO MAKE IT BETTER

In an effort to quell the negative impact of tens of thousands of St. Patrick's party-goers descending upon Lower Greenville residential neighborhoods on **March 12**, LGNA has again been working with event organizers, City departments, and other neighborhood associations to achieve significant results. Temporary no-parking signs will again be posted on the east side of Greenville between Ross and Winton. The only blocks that are excepted from no-parking signs will be the 5900 and 6000 blocks north of McCommas and the 5700-6000 blocks of McCommas itself. Because McCommas and Mockingbird are major thoroughfares and wide enough to accommodate two-way traffic, there will not be any parking restrictions on those two streets. All other blocks within the LGNA area – Ross to Mockingbird, Greenville to Skillman – will have either temporary no-parking signs, permanent no-parking, or day-long resident parking only.

Most north-south streets between Ross and Mockingbird, with the exception of Matilda and Skillman which are also major thoroughfares, will also have no-parking on one side of the street. Concho north of McCommas will not have temporary no-parking signs. The city has provided a map of the no-parking areas on both sides of Greenville. LGNA will ensure that the map will be distributed to all residents affected, and it will also be found online at www.LGNA.net.

LGNA has sought to improve conditions caused by businesses south of Belmont and north of the block party between Vanderbilt and Mockingbird. Bars and other businesses outside of the permit area take advantage of the parade north of Mockingbird, overflow, and after-party crowds to host additional events, extending the impact of the event to all of Lower Greenville from Mockingbird to Henderson. These merchants are not regulated by City controls because they are not permit holders. Their events and promotions attract thousands of partiers who sometimes cause serious negative impact on nearby residential areas. LGNA has again requested the Dallas Police Department to meet with Greenville-Avenue businesses south and north of the block party to lessen the negative impact of their activities.

Each year has seen incremental improvements to fine-tune control of the huge crowds, heavy traffic, litter, illegal parking, and other issues associated with the several events along Greenville Avenue. Every year, these improvements are possible because of the hard work of over 100 neighborhood-association volunteers who work with the City and business-owners. This year will be no different.

LGNA volunteers, assisted by area Boy Scout troops, annually construct and erect hundreds of temporary no-parking signs to allow passage of traffic and emergency vehicles. While the City and the sponsors of the block party pay for the signs, they are constructed and posted by neighborhood volunteers. Additional volunteers are needed to insure our success. If you can help construct signs on Saturday, March 5, or help post signs on Thursday, March 10, call 214-821-2562 or email Director1@LGNA.net.

We reported last fall that the City budget crunch might cause the removal of **Dallas Fire Rescue's ambulance at Station 17** located at Skillman and Belmont. Bruce Felps at EastDallasTimes.com reports that according to Assistant Fire Chief Tod Gillam, the ambulance will be reassigned to another station during the last week of March or first week of April.

According to DFR, Station 17 receives the fewest emergency medical calls in the city among all station houses. Our area will probably be served by Station 8, located 2 minutes farther away at Garrett and Monarch. Station 17 will still have paramedics. According to Gillam, "They have all the tools, all the drugs, and can do everything an ambulance can do except transport."

DIG THIS!

notes from a neighborhood gardener

Smart use of your gardening \$green\$ pays off in the long run.

Save money on the smaller stuff but don't skimp on your gardening tools and clippers. Get good quality up front, and with care it will last for years. I've gone through 2-3 garden trowels in one season before buying a good one, and it's lasted for years. Tying a bright colored cord to small tools or painting a bright stripe on the handle will keep you from throwing it out with the clippings and trash.

Good gardening gloves will last more than a day and keep your hands from suffering thorn pricks and blisters. If working with roses, I like the ones with leather palms. I find wearing a pair of disposable latex gloves under my gardening gloves will even protect a manicure and keep my hands from drying out.

Start your own compost pile to save on lawn and garden bags and buying compost. No need for a fancy composter, just pile clippings, leaves, produce scraps, coffee grounds etc. in a sunny spot in the back yard, water and turn frequently. You should have compost in 6 months or less.

Don't always buy the largest size container plants available. Buy perennials at season's end on clearance. Buy drought-tolerant proven plants, and mulch generously. Use perennials and shrubs as the backbone of your garden and fill in with annuals for color and variety. Consider plant swapping and sharing with neighbors and friends. Look for gardening books at garage sales and used bookstores

And a few ideas I haven't tried but can save money are using toilet paper rolls as seed starter pots and discarded miniblinds as plant markers. Go figure, the creativity of frugal gardeners never ceases to amaze me.

Happy Digging and may your **green thumb** have a prosperous season.

sara wick
palo pinto



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



CRIME WATCH UPDATE

BREATHING A LITTLE EASIER

DARREN DATTALO, CRIME WATCH COORDINATOR

After a summer crime wave, it has been a relief to see considerably lower crime numbers in the neighborhood over the last few months. We've been clocking in about 20% below normal for the last 4 months. I'm mostly happy to see the number of home break-ins down, averaging about 6 per month instead of 10 per month like 2009. Unfortunately car break-ins remain a problem with only a slight decrease over last year. Spring is upon us, and warmer weather always brings an increase in the level of crime. While many of these car break-ins occur in business parking lots, most occur on our streets in front of our homes. I hope you'll all continue to remain vigilant about keeping doors locked and valuables out of sight in your vehicles.

On another note, the annual St. Patrick's Day celebration is just days away. Tens of thousands of partiers will be descending on the neighborhood. Most of us enjoy the event, but as always, exercise caution on **Saturday March 12th**. While no one wants to throw a wet blanket on the party, it will be no-tolerance for DWIs and parking violations. You will receive an information form regarding the parking arrangements for the day and where to call for any event related problems such as noise, litter or parking. If you're throwing a party, make sure you are not violating TABC laws. As we go to print, details are not confirmed, but we were told last year that DPD has decided to issue citations for open container violations this year. This is a major change in DPD's St. Pat's policy. Please be aware of this if you are hosting a yard party.

EXPANDED NEIGHBORHOOD PATROL UPDATE

The Headaches of Spring.



I know many of you have been enjoying the incredible weather that mid-February has provided. This is one of the best times of the year in North Texas. The number of neighbors out with kids, the dog(s), doing yard work has significantly grown with each passing day. Once everyone had their vehicle washed, things were wonderful. How could there be any headaches? Spring break can be chaotic, but not painful. Possibly remembering which weekend to move the clocks ahead an hour might be a challenge, but nothing we all haven't overcome in the past. No, the headaches result from our never-ending efforts to keep your property, well, your property. Already this spring we have cringed at the number of windows left open. Vehicle windows left open during a gorgeous afternoon are expected and deserve a word of caution. More disturbing are the number of not only vehicle windows, but residential windows, and while for a few hours isn't troubling, many are being left open overnight. This exposure only increases the potential for the bad guys to take your property. We stopped a gentleman in an alley who volunteered that many criminals walk up and down to see who A) has those easily pawnable items and B) which locations are the most accessible. Our alley walker was even surprised at how many windows were never shut. He walks the alleys on Mondays and Fridays to "get a feel" of what's going on. We have mentioned

	Residential Incidents	Car Break-ins	Other Res. Thefts & Break-ins	Violent Crime*	Auto Theft
Nov 2010	22	12	7	2	1
Dec 2010	21	16	7	2	0
Jan 2011	26	14	5	3	2
Typical	32	16	9	3	2

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

a short time creates opportunities for the bad guys. This is better information of how property is targeted. The criminals are criminals for a reason. It is what they do. We shouldn't be surprised that they have adapted their own system. Please look out for not only yourselves, but also your neighbors. Check to be sure that windows are closed. Please use www.iWatchDallas.net to increase the methods that are available to share information. This site provides smart phone applications, cell phone texting instruction, and even a crime tip land line. Enjoy the spring! Please let us know if you have any questions. **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).