

LGNA

LOWER
GREENVILLE
NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION



MARCH • APRIL 2012

MOCKINGBIRD TO ROSS / GREENVILLE TO SKILLMAN

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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214-821-2562

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USEFUL NUMBERS

Council Member Angela Hunt
214-670-5415

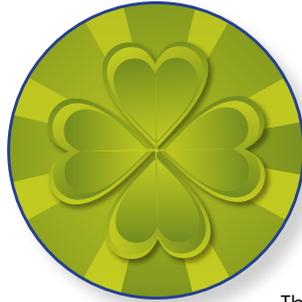
State Rep. Dan Branch
214-745-5768

DPD Officer Keith Allen
214-671-3477

Sanitation / Bulk Trash
214-670-3555

Code Compliance
214-670-5708

Animal Services Call 311



MARCH MEETING

A CHANCE TO HELP YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

LGNA hosts two annual 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 Ross to Mockingbird, Greenville to Skillman. This year we will construct and post 700+ temporary signs.

The sign-construction event takes place at 5843 Vanderbilt at 9:00am on Saturday, March 10. If you have hammers, please bring them. In case of rain, we'll move to the Tietze Park pavilion.

The sign-posting event takes place on the Thursday evening before St. Pat's – March 15 between 4:00 and 7:00 p.m. – also at 5843 Vanderbilt, and it will be the official March LGNA membership meeting. Plan to arrive any time from 4:00 on, whenever you're available. Teams of Scouts, Explorers, and adult volunteers will be going out to post signs on most blocks in the LGNA area. As well as the posting crews, we'll need drivers to ferry the teams and their signs. Bring hammers and/or mallets if you have them.

Join LGNA volunteers, Boy Scouts, and Explorers in two fun events that will benefit yourself and your neighbors. Courtesy of LGNA and our good friends at Blue Goose and The Dubliner, a light meal will be served on both Saturday and Thursday. For more details, email Director1@LGNA.net, call 214-821-2562, or go to www.LGNA.net.

ST. PATRICK'S – WORKING TO MAKE IT BETTER

In an effort to quell the impact of tens of thousands of St. Patrick's party-goers descending upon Lower Greenville residential neighborhoods on March 17, the Lower Greenville Neighborhood Association has been working since October with event organizers, City departments, and other neighborhood associations to achieve significant results.

A copy of the City's St. Pat's no-parking map is included with your newsletter. On the reverse of the map is detailed information about enforcement and steps taken for your protection. The map and information are also available at www.LGNA.net.

St. Pat's signs are posted on Thursday, but parking restriction does not go into effect until Saturday, March 17. Cars parked in violation of the no-parking plan on Saturday will be ticketed or towed. There is no exception for residents.

New this year at the request of residents north of McCommas, no-parking signs will be erected in the 5900-6000 blocks of streets north of McCommas. A larger attendance at the parade north of Mockingbird and increased events in the Greenville/McCommas area have spread parking onto residential streets as far north as Mockingbird.

In 2007 and 2008 LGNA conveyed residents' concerns about the amount of residential parking taken by Lowest Greenville

(CONTINUED INSIDE)

NEXT MEETING

WHEN SATURDAY March 10
9:00 AM
THURSDAY March 15
4-7:00 PM

WHERE 5843 Vanderbilt
TOPIC St. Pat's No-Parking
Sign Party

BULK TRASH DATE

PICK UP: March 12-16
EARLIEST SET-OUT: March 8

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

PICK UP: May 14-18
EARLIEST SET-OUT: May 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.



**LOG ON TO
WWW.LGNA.NET**

for information
and updates.

ST. PATRICK'S – WORKING TO MAKE IT BETTER

(CONTINUED FROM FRONT COVER)

bar patrons on streets south of Belmont, and the no-parking signs were extended to Ross. After St. Patrick's in 2011, LGNA conveyed residents' concerns about parking north of McCommas, and City officials have again listened to our citizens.

The only street excepted from no-parking signs is the 5700-6000 blocks of McCommas. Because McCommas is a major thoroughfare and wide enough to accommodate two-way traffic, there will be no parking restrictions. 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.

Temporary no-parking or RPO signs are generally on the north side of the street for east-west streets and on the west for north-south streets. However, there are a few exceptions because of permanent no-parking or RPO signs or because of bus traffic.

In addition to the block party between Vanderbilt and Vickery, the morning's Upper Greenville parade sends free-drinking parade watchers meandering south with the accompanying problems of excessive parking, litter, and lack of restrooms. At the request of LGNA and neighborhood associations west of Greenville, the area between Winton and Belmont will see trash containers and signage intended to deter littering and DWI.

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. These improvements are possible because of the hard work of over 100 volunteers every year. This year will be no different.

NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESSES SUPPORT LGNA

Part of the festivities at January's Lower Greenville Neighborhood Association volunteer-recognition meeting were door prizes provided by several area merchants. Many thanks to our neighborhood's generous merchants:

Sundown at the Granada 3520 Greenville

The Bottle Shop 2116 Greenville

The UPS Store 5706 East Mockingbird

Mextopia Restaurant 2104 Greenville

My Fit Foods 5706 East Mockingbird

Snuffer's 3526 Greenville

Please support these great neighborhood-friendly businesses!

LAWYERS YOU MAY WANT TO KNOW

LGNA residents Philip Kingston and Michael Regitz are two lawyers that have been recognized for their good works.

Philip won an award from the Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program (DVAP) for his 10+ years of volunteer service at the West Dallas Legal Clinic, a no-cost legal intake clinic. Philip volunteers at the clinic one night a month, and his ability to speak Spanish is particularly useful to the many people who rely on the services of volunteer lawyers to help them solve problems.

Michael also won an award from DVAP for his efforts in establishing Dallas' first no-cost legal clinic for our veterans. Dallas' Veteran's Clinic meets one Friday afternoon per month during working hours at the Dallas VA Hospital. Michael has worked tirelessly to get the clinic off the ground, get it staffed with other volunteer lawyers, and promote the need for specialized legal services for our veterans.

Philip, of course, also serves on the LGNA board of directors. Give these guys a pat on the back next time you see them around the 'hood.

Congrats to Mike and Philip!



MARATHON ALERT

The Rock 'n' Roll half marathon will again travel around our neighborhood on **Sunday, March 25**. This year runners will travel eastbound along Mockingbird, turning southward onto Skillman, to continue along Swiss Avenue and Haskell toward Fair Park. Street closures are announced to begin by 7:00am but may be earlier.

LGNA worked with the City and with marathon organizers in previous years when the event was run down Matilda the day after St. Patrick's events. In more recent years, area residents have expressed concern about speeding traffic on residential streets parallel to Mockingbird and Skillman. There have also been complaints about being unable to "escape" our neighborhood because of police barricades.

LGNA is again working with the City and event organizers to ease some of the difficulties presented to our neighborhood by the popular event.

Do plan extra time on Sunday morning and early afternoon, March 25, for your trip out of the LGNA area. To go toward downtown, take southbound Ross Avenue. To go north or south, take eastbound Monticello or Henderson to connect you with northbound or southbound Central Expressway. Central Expressway's ramps at Mockingbird will be closed.

LGNA Round Up

Tietze Shred 5 – March 31

Tietze Shred — the popular document destruction event — will return on Saturday, March 31. Held in the parking lot of Skillman Church of Christ, Skillman at Monticello, Tietze Shred provides an efficient and economical method to help prevent identity theft and to clean out your storage. Area residents can bring documents for shredding between 9:00am and 1:00pm. Cost is \$7 for up to one standard banker's box (approx. 30 lbs) and \$5 for each additional banker's box. The price for seniors 65 and older is \$5 for each box.

Proceeds will benefit Friends of Tietze Park Foundation and Skillman Church's Arms of Hope Ministry.

LGNA LOVES OUR VOLUNTEERS

A large crowd attended the Lower Greenville Neighborhood Association's January meeting at Snuffer's Restaurant and enjoyed snacks provided by LGNA and Snuffer's. Thank you, Snuffer's!

Many volunteers attended, and each was presented with a t-shirt as a thank-you gift. All of LGNA's successes are attributed to our large corps of volunteers. The meeting program included descriptions of positive changes in the LGNA area – all made possible by volunteer efforts.

Various LGNA neighborhood initiatives were highlighted – improved crime statistics and examples of positive results from our Extended Neighborhood Patrol (See "ENP to the Rescue."), National Night Out at Tietze Park, our newsletter-production and -delivery teams, Welcome Wagon, December's fire-station baskets and Toys for Cops, and a preview of the upcoming Lower Greenville Pet Watch. (You'll read more about the Pet Watch in upcoming issues of your newsletter.) The annual St. Patrick's events were discussed with kudos to the many volunteers who have participated every year to make the day less objectionable to residents. LGNA volunteers have been working since last October to continue the improvements in 2012. (See "St. Patrick's.")

One of the most striking improvements to our area is Lowest Greenville, the area of Greenville Avenue between Ross and Belmont. In early 2010, Councilmembers Angela Hunt and Pauline Medrano promised to fund Lowest Greenville infrastructure improvements with bond monies approved in previous years, but only if the area's crime rate and negative reputation were reduced. LGNA worked diligently with Hunt and Medrano, City staff, the Dallas Police Department, and five other neighborhood associations to implement the Lowest Greenville late-hours planned development district (PD). With this zoning tool in place, every location in the Lowest Greenville area would have to apply for a special use permit (SUP) to be open for business between midnight and 6:00am. The PD was approved by City Council in January 2011.

As locations applied for their SUPs, LGNA volunteers met with representatives from the other neighborhood associations to research each of the operations for crime activity, code compliance, and police complaints. For the PD to be equally enforceable, every location had to apply, including businesses such as 7-Eleven. The neighborhood associations worked with neighborhood-friendly businesses to support them and to help correct code and zoning deficiencies. Some operations with negative reputations didn't even bother to apply for a permit and are no longer in business. Some applications, such as a proposed bowling alley at Greenville and Lewis, were controversial. As with every other late-hours application, the coalition of neighborhood associations performed due diligence. After carefully reviewing site plans, talking to nearby homeowners, and meeting multiple times with the landlord, LGNA and the other associations chose to oppose the granting of a late-night permit to the site of the proposed bar/bowling alley.

Opposition was based on the fact that of the overall occupancy, less than 15% would be related to bowling, the remainder to the bar. This would have created by far the largest operating bar on Lowest Greenville. Of overriding importance was the fact that special use permits are not granted to individual businesses, but to the location. Should the bowling alley close, any business – neighborhood-friendly or not – could move into the location and have the benefit of the late-hours permit.

Initially some people opposed the PD, predicting mass business closures. With the decreased crime rate and improved streetscape, interest is renewed for businesses to move onto Lowest Greenville.

To all our volunteers in all jobs – THANK YOU!

DIG THIS!

notes from a neighborhood gardener

GO GREEN this spring in all its shades

Realizing early in my gardening hobby that shade is not conducive to blooming plants, I was forced to explore alternative ways to add "color" to my garden palette. I began experimenting with differing shades of green in my plant selections.

If you're fortunate enough to have wonderful shade trees in your yard, don't be disheartened with boring garden color. Green Gardening can be captivating. Do as I did – incorporate varying shades of green into your garden design.



Spring is a good time to peruse the local nurseries and garden shops looking for interesting plants suitable to shade gardening. No need for a major landscape redesign. Just experiment with a small piece of yard at the base of a tree, outside your back door, or in a shady part of the yard where you like to enjoy a cool summer drink.

Perennials to consider for varying shades of green are hostas for variegation as well as gray to yellow green color, artemisias for a gray green, coral bells for chartreuse to bright green, or herbs like sage or fennel. Don't forget small accent shrubbery either, as you can find santolina, evergreens, nandina, and spirea in a variety of green shades.

So as our neighborhood bursts into a Kelly Green on St. Pat's Day, imagine all the different shades of green you can showcase in your gardens this year. Have fun exploring and experimenting.

sara wick
palo pinto



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



CRIME WATCH UPDATE

ENP – It Makes a Difference

DARREN DATTAO, CRIME WATCH COORDINATOR

We're giving Officer Keith Allen the day off from writing his very helpful column so that we can brag about him. (See "ENP to the Rescue.")

While we greatly appreciate all the work of our on-duty patrol officers paid for through your tax dollars, Officer Keith continues to make a big difference every day throughout our neighborhood, Ross to Mockingbird. One of the most valuable services he provides is a routine follow-up on every offense that occurs in our area.

The crime reports we send out by email and post on the website are based on information provided by Officer Keith. But he doesn't just give us a list. He provides details on every substantive incident and any trends that may be appearing. When trends emerge, he interviews victims and works with detectives to help connect the dots.

Although our goal has been to increase to 20 hours per week, we are still patrolling at 10 hours per week in order to maintain a responsible reserve level in the program. I hope you'll agree with me that this is a very valuable service to the neighborhood and will consider joining if you haven't already. For more information about ENP or to start receiving the Crime Watch email reports and alerts, contact CrimeWatch@LGNA.net.

	Residential Incidents	Car Break-ins	Other Res. Thefts & Break-ins	Violent Crime*	Auto Theft
Dec 2011	19	11	4	1	3
Jan 2012	32	14	7	4	4
Typical	27	13	10	2	3

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



ENP TO THE RESCUE!

We started our Extended Neighborhood Patrol program in March 2008. Over the last four years, literally dozens of arrests have been made and hundreds of home perimeter checks performed. At our January LGNA meeting, Darren Dattalo provided a recap of only a few of 2011's ENP successes.

Health and Safety

- Transported an elderly woman threatening suicide to the hospital. She had taken too much medication.
- Arrested another person who was behaving violently after not taking their medication.
- After responding to a disturbance complaint from a neighbor, worked with animal control to remove 20 cats from a single residence.
- Assisted a lost and intoxicated 16 year old female found wondering in the neighborhood. Officer Keith tracked down her father to pick her up.
- Expedited the removal of an abandoned wrecked vehicle.

Enforcement

- Shut down a drug house operating on Matilda.
- Identified a graffiti tagger and issued arrest warrant.
- Assisted three female stalking victims by making "courtesy calls" to their harassers.
- Transported 4 homeless persons to The Bridge.

Arrests

- 1 homeless warrant
- 1 known drug dealer
- 1 known burglar
- 3 public intoxication
- 1 door-to-door solicitor with outstanding warrants for fraud
- Several people involved in a disturbance

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT AND JOIN NOW!

name: _____

address: _____

phone: _____

cell: _____

email: _____

comments: _____



Please choose all that apply:

- Join LGNA (\$10/yr, \$5 for 65+)
- Join Expanded Neighborhood Patrol (\$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).