

LGNA

LOWER
GREENVILLE
NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION



JULY • AUGUST 2017

MOCKINGBIRD TO ROSS / GREENVILLE TO SKILLMAN

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Debbie Daniel | PRESIDENT
214-821-0747

Gay Hopkins | VICE PRESIDENT
214-827-4559

Patricia Carr | VICE PRESIDENT
214-821-2562

Pam Mueller | TREASURER
214-821-1554

John Dailey | SECRETARY
214-821-6324

DIRECTORS

Art Carrillo 214-714-5590

Lilia Estrada 214-874-3259

Michelle Foreman 214-394-2487

David Jones 214-300-1894

Ken Lampton 214-502-5858

USEFUL NUMBERS

Darren Dattalo | CRIME WATCH
214-476-8023

Council Member Philip Kingston
214-670-5415

DPD Officer Keith Allen
214-671-3477

Sanitation / Bulk Trash
Call 311

Code Compliance
214-670-5708

Animal Services
Call 311



PHILIP KINGSTON CITY NEWS FOR LOWER GREENVILLE

At the next LGNA membership event on Tuesday, August 22, City Councilmember Philip Kingston will tell us about what's going on at City Hall and how it is impacting the Lower Greenville area.

Kingston represents District 14 and is well known as an outspoken force in many public issues that affect, not only District 14 and Lower Greenville, but that shape the City as a whole. He'll

update us about developments and, if time allows, will hear our questions and concerns.

It should be an interesting and informative session – Tuesday, August 22, at 6:00 pm. Upstairs on the mezzanine at Slater's 50/50, 2817 Greenville between Terilli's and Dodie's Reef.

LGNA Officers

The annual meeting of the Lower Greenville Neighborhood Association, held in conjunction with the June informational event, featured the re-election of three board members – John Dailey, Michelle Forman, and Pam Mueller. LGNA voting members were mailed a proxy ballot that contained the three board members nominated for reelection as well as space for write-in candidates.

In an incredible show of neighborhood support, over 60% of the ballots were returned – an excellent response when compared to the recent City Council elections where less than 10% of registered voters turned out. Especially gratifying to your LGNA board were those ballots that were returned with comments such as "Thank you all for jobs well done." Thank you!

As is common with many non-profit organizations, the ten-member volunteer board later elected officers for the coming twelve months. In a change of responsibilities, Debbie Daniel was elected president of the Lower Greenville Neighborhood Association while former president Patricia Carr takes vice-presidential duties. Pam Mueller is our new treasurer, John Dailey remains secretary, and Gay Hopkins continues as vice president. You can see the roster of officers on this page.

While every resident of our area, Ross to Mockingbird and Greenville to Skillman, is a member of LGNA, dues-paying households enjoy voting membership. If you didn't receive a proxy ballot, consider clipping the membership coupon in this newsletter or using PayPal at www.LGNA.net so that you can enjoy larger participation in LGNA. Annual dues are a very reasonable \$20 per household with only \$5 for residents 65+.

UPCOMING EVENT

WHEN Tuesday, August 22
6:00 pm

WHERE Slater's 50/50
2817 Greenville

WHAT Philip Kingston

BULK TRASH DATE

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

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

PICK UP: Oct 9-13
EARLIEST SET-OUT: Oct 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.

Find out what's going on.
Like Us on  FACEBOOK



LOG ON TO
LGNA.NET
for information
and updates.

SELF-DEFENSE AND ALERTNESS



LGNA's June event drew a good-sized crowd to Matt's Rancho Martinez on Skillman. Whitt Melton of DPD and Lone Eagle Fighting Arts presented a fascinating and thought-provoking presentation on how to prevent personal crimes and how to defend against them.

His first admonition was, "Victims are chosen." Assaults and/or robberies are seldom random because the bad guys "have been watching" for victims. When you're walking home from a restaurant or taking your evening walk for exercise, notice your environment.

Don't look down at your cell phone, don't wear head phones, and don't wear a hoodie. Anything that obstructs your ability to be alert will contribute to your becoming a victim.

And whatever you do, never get into a car with someone that you don't know.

Melton also dispelled the common notion that car keys placed between your fingers is an effective defense weapon. It is NOT. First, it takes time to properly place the keys between your fingers when you're nervous and/or frightened. Second, keys held in this manner don't cause much damage to your target, and the force will likely break your fingers.

Audience volunteers practiced how to strike at an assailant, aiming at sensitive areas like the eyes, throat, ears, and "below the belt." Melton urged us to scream and yell, but don't scream "Help!" It's better to yell "Fire!" or "Get back!" as loudly as you can to get attention of anyone who may be nearby.

Remaining alert also applies to our homes as well as when we're out on the street. Always lock your doors, even when you're at home. While most criminals don't want a confrontation, you also don't want to get into a fight over property.

Owning a dog is a good deterrent, even small dogs because they make a lot of noise. Prickly bushes planted under your windows will effectively deter most burglars. Cameras outside your house are "awesome," says Melton.

These are but a few tips shared with our neighbors, but Whitt Melton's primary admonitions were:

- In all cases, be proactive – not reactive.
- Know what's "normal," and don't be afraid to call 911.

Check out LoneEagleFightingArts.com. And thanks to Matt's Rancho Martinez for hosting us.

TOYS FOR COPS

You came through again, LGNA residents! Once again, residents of the LGNA area and other areas as far away as Mesquite compassionately donated stuffed toys to the Dallas Police Department's Central Patrol.

DPD patrol cars carry stuffed toys for distribution to children who are distressed by traumatic events such as domestic violence or traffic accidents. This summer LGNA neighbors donated 200+ stuffed toys to Central Patrol as well as many puzzles, books, and board games for Jubilee Center. Thank you!

One mother donated three 30-gallon bags of stuffed toys accompanied by a note. "I hope the children will find these comforting. My son is 15 and has autism, so it's usually very hard for him to part with anything. When I told him who needed them and why, he automatically told me to give all except for 3 'special' toys. Thank you for all you do."

Start saving your gently used stuffed toys for December when LGNA will again sponsor the Toys for Cops campaign. It's a win-win – help with your house-cleaning and get a good feeling from promoting DPD's positive image and helping kids who need compassion.

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Visit us at:
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JULY 4TH STAR-GAZING

LGNA Secretary John Dailey was an invited guest to an Independence Day cookout at the home of State Representative Morgan Meyer. As well as John, attendees included former Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (slated to be the next U.S. representative to NATO), U.S. Representative Pete Sessions, six Texas State Representatives, several education board representatives, and political dignitaries.

Rep. Meyer provided tables, chairs and a canopy for guests to enjoy the cookout foods. John says that it was a delightful day for the event, and we're proud of his providing such great representation for LGNA.



NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Do you look forward to receiving the LGNA newsletter with its informative articles about your neighborhood? Can you spare six hours a year to assure the newsletter's timely delivery? We need volunteers who can deliver newsletters on a regular and/or substitute basis. Newsletters are hand-delivered to 2,700+ households in our area. All of those deliveries are made by volunteers who cover 2-4 blocks each. The newsletter is published six times a year, and it takes about an hour to cover the four blocks. (It's good exercise, too.) If you'd like to help your neighborhood, email Director1@LGNA.net or call 214-821-2562.

DID YOU KNOW?

ALEXAN CONSTRUCTION

The Alexan housing development at the northwest corner of Greenville and Belmont sometimes seems to be going nowhere, but Matt Enzler with Trammel Crow Residential tells us that they're making progress and staying on schedule. Two cranes have been erected and will probably stand until next spring.

There was much neighborhood concern about the cranes changing direction during non-work hours. Small comfort for the residents in the Vickery Place neighborhood where the cranes are sometimes directly above homes, but Enzler said that the direction the crane is pointed is determined by the wind direction, which is a safety mechanism. If the cranes were to be locked in a direction different than the wind, it would create undo pressure on the base.

HAS YOUR STREET LIGHT BURNED OUT?

Contact Oncor at www.OncorStreetLight.com to report street-light outages or repairs. Councilmember Kingston's office tells us that it is very easy to navigate the site, and you will receive notification when repairs are complete.

MOCKINGBIRD BRIDGE UPDATE

Go to UniversityCrossingBridge.com for information on progress of construction of the Katy Trail pedestrian bridge on Mockingbird between Central and McMillan. The site contains information on road closures as well as long-term construction plans and close-up pictures of current construction.

SHOUT-OUT TO OUR NEIGHBORHOOD PATROL OFFICER

From Darren Dattalo, LGNA Crime Watch

Those of you who are members of our Extended Neighborhood Patrol program probably have met Officer Keith Allen. He has been patrolling our neighborhood as our ENP officer for the last decade.

Earlier this year, a call came in of a missing child during one of Keith's patrol shifts. The kiddo, who normally takes the DART rail to school, did not come home at the normal time. Officer Keith coordinated with on-duty patrols and youth detectives to find him.

Fortunately, he had simply fallen asleep on the train and ended up in Rowlett, and he was delivered home safely. Thank you very much to all our LGNA neighbors who contribute to the ENP program so that we can keep Officer Keith on the job.

*Both these men
WILL FIGHT FOR YOU!*

The Gladiator is a good choice when you face a lion in the Roman Arena.




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ADVERTISING IN THE LGNA NEWSLETTER

The LGNA newsletter now features advertising from neighborhood businesses. Our full-color newsletter is delivered to 2,700 households in the LGNA area.

If you're interested in showcasing your business at a nominal rate, contact **Advertising@LGNA.net**

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT AND JOIN NOW!

name: _____

address: _____

phone: _____

cell: _____

email: _____



Please choose all that apply:

- Join LGNA (\$20/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).**

Pay Pal Now Available: LGNA has made it a little easier for you to become a member. We've added PayPal to the LGNA website. On the site, you'll see two buttons, one for regular membership and one for seniors (65+). If you have a PayPal account, you can use that directly. If not, you can skip that step and proceed directly to a credit card processing page. LGNA does not receive your credit card information, only the contact information. There is no surcharge added to the regular \$20 per household membership (\$5 for seniors).



NEIGHBORHOOD HISTORY: TIETZE PARK



Tietze Park, a 9-acre gem in East Dallas (located on Skillman Streets between Llano and Vanderbilt Avenues), was acquired in 1924 by the City of Dallas, when it was on the northeast fringe of town. First known as Keith Park, it was renamed Tietze Park ten years later, after W.R. Tietze, who was Superintendent of Parks for the city from 1896-1933. Mr. Tietze was a floriculturalist, who studied under Henry Shaw in St. Louis, philanthropist and founder of the Missouri Botanical Gardens.

A sandstone picnic pavilion was added in 1934. The park also features a community swimming pool, lighted baseball field, tennis court, basketball court, a second ball field also suitable for soccer, picnic area, children's playground, a plaza with benches and tables, and more than 75 mature and outstanding oak and live oak trees, cedars, and a few "kneeling" bois d'arc trees, which are said to predate the park by 50 years or more.

Tietze Park today is one of the most popular parks in Dallas, and is said to be the most-used per square foot. For several years, neighborhood volunteers have assisted city crews by picking up trash, and by doing minor maintenance. In 1999, public meetings organized by the Park and Recreation Department and the Lakewood Heights Neighborhood Association resulted in a new Master Plan, revising the park layout and resulting in a new playground, relocated and improved basketball court, and reconstructed tennis court. The Department identified over \$2 million dollars in additional funding needed to implement the Master Plan, which did not include any new facility construction.

In 2002, a group of neighborhood residents formed the Friends of Tietze Park Foundation (FOTPF). The foundation is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, representing all park users. The foundation is dedicated to the improvement, preservation and continued beautification of Tietze Park.

In 2003, a city-wide Bond Initiative was passed by voters, and included an appropriation of \$577,000 for restoration of the pavilion, improved lighting, and other improvements. In June, 2004, the Dallas City Council awarded a contract for architectural design to Marcel Quimby Architecture/Preservation, Inc.

In 2004, FOTPF hosted a series of meetings, with residents from the Lakewood Heights, Lower Greenville and Wilshire Heights neighborhoods, and city representatives, to develop a revised Master Plan for park improvements. Besides the pavilion restoration and park lighting, plans now included: a pedestrian promenade (Skillman to Clements through the park center), redesign of the plaza area (west of the pavilion), a new toddler playground, reopening of the concession stand at the back of the pavillion, and sanitary improvements (hand sink, Porta-Potty screening, and water fountain with dog bowl).

The first phase of work to implement the plan was completed in 2007. Phase I Master Plan improvements included: stonework restoration and a new roof for the WPA-era pavilion, new lighting throughout the park, including a lighted central promenade, landscaping improvements including new planter beds and trees, new tables and benches, and new wrought-iron fencing around

new tables and benches, and new wrought-iron fencing around the pool area. In April, 2007, the Lindsey Brown Toddler Playground was dedicated. The playground is named for Lindsey Stephenson Brown, who spent many happy hours among the trees and grass at Tietze Park. Lindsey passed away in 2006, and her family requested that FOTPF establish a memorial fund. The foundation and the Department of Parks and Recreation split the construction costs of the playground and it was included in Phase 1 work.

PreservationDallas, at their 10th annual awards ceremony (June, 2009) named Tietze Park the best "Rehabilitation of a Historic Landscape or Park" for the Phase I Master Plan improvements

Another city-wide bond election which passed in November of 2006, provided additional funding to continue the Master Plan improvements, including \$352,500 for a perimeter walkway and park furnishings and \$155,000 for pool infrastructure improvements. The city hired la terra studio in Dallas to design the perimeter walkway and associated improvements (their design schematic is shown on the "Phase 2 Schematic" page of this website). Construction was completed in 2011, The perimeter walkway was an instant success and in constant use since its opening!

The park's history has been marked by ups and downs based on economic conditions. When FOTPF was formed in 2002, the park was showing considerable wear-and-tear but has greatly improved. In 2010, severe budget pressures led to cuts in Dalls park services. Fourteen of the twenty-one city-operated swimming pools in Dallas were temporarily closed. The pool at Tietze Park, the most cost-effective pool in the park system, as shown by city data, remained open. However, in the summer of 2010 it became apparent that more cuts were needed for the 2011 budget year, unless a tax increase was approved. The Tietze Park pool was proposed for closure in 2011, and city-wide, park maintenance cuts, including a 28-day mowing cycle, were proposed. Objections by FOTPF and other park users, as well numerous other groups objecting to various service cuts, led the City Council to approve a tax rate increase that would allow the pool and park to continue to be maintained.

Since 2002 FOTPF has contributed a number of durable amenities to the park:

- A large portion of the cost of the Lindsay Brown Toddler Playground
- Shade structure with benches to view the playgrounds
- Flag pole with maintenance of flags and light
- Exercise equipment stations with "pet parking posts"
- Bike rack
- Tennis Court Benches and new net
- 4 Pet waste bag dispensers and maintenance

The Friends of Tietze Park Foundation remains committed its mission to improve, preserve and beautify Tietze Park. And we sincerely appreciate the support of the many friends and volunteers who have helped us in our efforts.



YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY, BABY!

Every once in a while, I hear from someone new to the neighborhood who sees a crime incident and feels like things are going to hell in a handbasket. Nothing could be farther from the truth.

This month, I celebrate 18 years living here in Lower Greenville, and I was reflecting on how much has changed. I decided to take a look back on our crime stats. Take a look at the table below and tell me that things are getting worse...

Lower Greenville has had MASSIVE improvements in the rate of crime incidents in the area. Much of that improvement occurred under Chief Kunkle's watch, but we have continued to see lower numbers every year.

The real difference has been the change in attitude among our residents. You are all much more diligent about watching out for your neighbors and reporting suspicious behavior to 911.

And more than a few of you have been very generous in your support of our Extended Neighborhood Patrol program. ENP started toward the end of 2007, the results were immediate, and they remain consistent.

We generally keep about 100 households in the program out of the 2500 households in the neighborhood, and those households are only about 10% of the people that get our monthly Crime Watch report.

But about 40 of those have been members since the beginning. They are the rock-solid foundation you can thank for the safety we now enjoy. Whether your contribution is through ENP or just in being a watchful neighbor, we wouldn't be here without you.

	MAY 2007	MAY 2017
Assaults	3	0
Auto Theft	6	1
Burglary	9	3
Robbery	1	0
Theft	36	4
Total Incidents	70	9

Like the old cigarette commercial used to say....

You've come a long way, baby!



KEITH ALLEN—DALLAS POLICE



ALLEYS & RAIN

All the rain we've had in June and first part of July has been above normal. It's made for growth everywhere. But especially in the alleys – above average for this time of year as well.

There have been a few issues involving "visitors" in the alleys of LGNA. Neglected alleys make for convenient "resting" places for homeless individuals and can give criminals a place to operate from. Several of the neighborhood's alleys are in dire need of attention. It is difficult, if not impossible, to navigate through many of them without causing damage to vehicles.

Spotting suspicious activity is much more challenging. For those of you who are members of the ENP program, we try to note on the check sheets whether the alleys are clear. The default setting has become "obstructed." The responsibility for alley cleanup lies with the property owner, just in case anyone is wondering.

Your neighborhood has been gracious to coordinate alley clean-ups in the past. However, this isn't the coolest time of year to address the vegetation. Now, I won't pretend that locating a workable saw, rake, and other tools is (or should be) at the top of anyone's to do list.

But there are some benefits to organizing and completing this type of project now. Greater visibility for you, your neighbors, and the police department is the primary benefit. Access for utility companies – should there EVER be a power outage – makes their job easier.

There are mornings where the weather isn't totally miserable, and if things dry out, the "offending" tree/shrub/weeds should be somewhat easier to cut and haul than in the spring. It is also an opportunity to increase interaction with your neighbors as scheduling a few hours with the residents of your block to work on the alleys together binds you all in the spirit of cooperation. It's probably more accurate to state that misery loves company, but I digress.

Seriously, working together with each other and the City turns an investment of a couple of hours into a tangible benefit for all. I know in the past that some blocks have scheduled a cookout for lunch at the completion of morning cleanup activities, thereby providing another opportunity for neighbor interaction.

Finally, a cleanup answers the age old question of "I wonder what's back there?" Thank you.

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT AND JOIN LGNA NOW!
For more information and to join go to LGNA.NET/JOIN-IN