



# Kessler Plaza News

July 27, 2007  
Volume 9, Issue 4

The Newsletter of the Kessler Plaza Neighborhood Association



THE LITTLE NEIGHBORHOOD  
WITH THE BIG HEART.

**Next Neighborhood Meeting:**  
Tuesday, July 31, 7 p.m.

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## National Night Out Scheduled

### Kessler Plaza to Celebrate at Moss Park

Kessler Plaza will join neighborhoods across the country to celebrate National Night Out, a unique crime/drug prevention event sponsored by the National Association of Town

Watch (NATW) on Tuesday, August 7, 2007 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Moss Park. The gathering at Moss Park will feature grilled hot dogs, soft drinks, and ice cream sandwiches courtesy of

Tom Thumb. In addition, representatives from the Southwest Police Division will be on hand as well as the K-9 unit, a fire truck, and an ambulance.

## Neighbors Explore Hiring Patrol Car

Residents of Kessler Plaza are researching the feasibility of the Dallas Police Department's Expanded Neighborhood Patrol (ENP) program.

assignment, so when residents report problems to 9-1-1, they are routed directly to the officer on patrol. Other Dallas neighborhoods using the ENP program have seen a 40-60% decrease in crime.

Residents are encouraged to attend the July 31 KPNA meeting to ask questions and receive additional information.

With ENP, a neighborhood hires an off-duty Dallas Police officer, who patrols the area in a marked police car for 4-6 hours/day. The officer is considered on special

In order to maintain a cost per household of \$30-40/month, approximately 200 households are needed to participate.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, contact Jennifer Pierce at (214) 653-6153 or [jpierce@dallascounty.org](mailto:jpierce@dallascounty.org) for additional information.

## Wine Tasting Fundraiser set for Sept. 8

The annual Kessler Plaza International Fall Wine Tour returns on Saturday, September 8, 2007! This event promises to be a fun-filled evening as neighbors and guests enjoy the taste of wines and foods from different countries around the world in beautiful Kessler Plaza homes.

The Wine Tour is a fundraiser for the KPNA. Proceeds will be used to complete neighborhood beautification projects planned for the year. The summer wine tasting event raised \$920 for the neighborhood.

Garcia at [kgarcia@hksinc.com](mailto:kgarcia@hksinc.com) or (214) 395-8075. Tickets will be available at the door. Also contact Kelly if you would like to sponsor a home or be a host home.

Tickets for the event are \$20 each. For additional information contact Kelly

The event kicks off at 6:00 PM at 2618 Marvin Ave. Plan now to attend this fun-filled event!

## Next KPNA Meeting Scheduled for July 31

Plan now to attend the next meeting of the Kessler Plaza Neighborhood Association on Tuesday, July 31, 2007.

trends for our neighborhood. Also, this is a great opportunity to meet new neighbors at the meeting!

Church of Christ. Remember to bring your Campbell's Soup labels and/or donations to the meeting. These are given to the church in appreciation for use of their facility.

Bring your neighbor and learn more about upcoming plans, projects, crime statistics, and

This informative meeting will be held Tuesday, July 31, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at the Jefferson Boulevard



## **President's Corner**

by **KEVIN BLOCK**

Dear Neighbors,

Although you wouldn't know it from the thermometer, summer is in full swing. So is the Kessler Plaza Neighborhood Association. There are plenty of activities going that we are involved in. First, we had another successful 4th of July parade. Our thanks go to Susan Walker for all of her hard work in organizing the event. We had approximately eighty participants and again made some of the local news publications. Next, we were awarded a generous grant from the Oak Cliff Conservation League to complete the installation of the sign toppers on the street signs in the neighborhood. In addition to the grant from the conservation league, these sign toppers are funded through fundraisers such as the Wine Nights that are held every few months. Thank you to those who donate

during that event. Look for the new sign toppers in the next couple of months.

There are a few other topics that I would like to bring up this month. First is the issue that we seem to be having recently with loose and stray dogs running through the streets. The city of Dallas has stated that they will do occasional street sweeps, which means that they will bring a few trucks and drive around the neighborhood to look for loose dogs. The one thing that we can do is call 311 to report lose dogs when you see them. Although the city does not come out instantly, it is a better approach than just doing nothing.

Next, I want to remind everybody that in addition to doing things to your own house to secure it and prevent crime, our best method is to be vigilant and aware neighbors. If you

see suspicious activities or people around the neighborhood, do not be afraid to call 911. The word from the Dallas police is that they would rather have us be safe than sorry, so keep your eyes open and do not hesitate to report suspicious activity.

Finally, I want to thank all of our volunteers and executive committee for their hard work and time. The neighborhood would not run without them.

For those of you who would like to be on the neighborhood email distribution list and are not, please email me at [kevin\\_c\\_block@yahoo.com](mailto:kevin_c_block@yahoo.com) and I will get you added so that you can stay informed.

Until next time,

Kevin

## **Mayor's Back-to-School Fair Scheduled for August 2**

Over 60 organizations will be providing a variety of services to students and their families when they attend the 2007 Mayor's "Back-to-School" Fair on Thursday, August 2, 2007 in the Centennial Hall and Automobile buildings at Fair Park from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Title sponsor Wal-Mart and Sam's Club designated "Healthy Bodies. Healthy Minds." as the main theme for this year's fair. Platinum sponsors WaMu and metroPCS join the Mayor's "Back-to-School" Fair for the third and second consecutive years respectively.

Students and their families will not only receive free school supplies but also will have the opportunity to visit health and social service providers and receive free health screenings.

Service providers will focus on this year's theme "Healthy Bodies. Healthy Minds." offering health, social and education services for the students and their parents. The goal is to detect any potential health problems that may impede the student's ability to perform well in school.

There will be health service providers offering vision screenings, dental screenings, immunization services, blood pressure screenings, information on CHIP and Medicaid applications, sickle cell screenings, obesity, asthma and sports physicals.

Other social providers will provide information on drug and gang prevention, dropout prevention, school retention, establishing and

maintaining PTA units and scholarships.

City of Dallas departments will provide information on recycling, storm water, grandparents raising grandchildren, fire prevention, aviation, Trinity River Project, mosquito information, air pollution and other information on city program and services. The Dallas Police Department will provide fingerprinting kits for Safe-Kids program.

For more information on registering to receive free school supplies or to volunteer at the 2007 Mayor's "Back-to-School" Fair visit [www.dallascityhall.com](http://www.dallascityhall.com) or call 2-1-1.



## New program helps residents save water and money

The City of Dallas is introducing a "New Throne for Your Home" program to help residents conserve water and save money. The program offers vouchers to help homeowners and apartment managers and owners purchase water-saving low-flow toilets.

"Older, high-flow toilets are one of the highest water users in the home, accounting for about 30 percent of water used indoors," said Water Conservation Division Manager

Carole Davis. "The low-flow toilets and high-efficiency toilets can save a typical household more than 10,600 gallons per year."

The "New Throne For Your Home" program will provide vouchers worth up to \$90 toward the purchase of water-saving low-flow toilets. Dallas Water Utilities customers could get up to two toilet vouchers if they live in a single-family home. Multifamily residential owners and managers can also apply and should contact the

Water Conservation Division to get information on specific program requirements for them.

To qualify for the vouchers, customers whose home was built prior to 1992 may not have received a low-flow toilet from any other City of Dallas program, and must agree to an installation verification visit. For complete guidelines about the program, visit [www.savedallaswater.com](http://www.savedallaswater.com) or call (214) 670-3155.

## Neighbors Celebrate July 4 with Second Annual Parade

The rain stayed away long enough to allow the 2nd Annual Kessler Plaza/Ravinia Heights 4th of July Parade at Moss Park to go off without a hitch.

About 50 people marched in the parade, which circled the park twice and was led for the second straight year by Boyd Melbourne, a 94-year-old World War II veteran.

The parade was started by Susan Walker, who says "I think there is something really special about our neighborhood. We had a good crew. They said they'd show up at 8 o'clock and, by golly, some of them were here at 7:45. I couldn't have done it without them."

Several residents brought their dogs to the parade. The neighborhood association brought refreshments.

Oak Cliff native David Strickland and his wife, Joni, had the only motor vehicle in the parade. They rode a motorcycle decked out in red, white, and blue. "This is great," David said. "You've got to thank our military for everything they do. What they do allows us to do this. God bless each and every one of them. I'm sure this will happen again next year. There are so many things that are negative – let's do something positive for Oak Cliff and keep the parade going."

Joni Strickland was glad to see that several people did not let the threat of rain or the muggy conditions prevent them from coming out to celebrate. "I'm glad people braved the weather," she said. "Mother Nature cooperated so we got to get out and celebrate."

Walker said the weather might have prevented some people from coming out to the festivities this year, although she was still pleased with the turnout.

"It just looked like it was going to not be rainy and steamy, like living in a jungle," Walker said. "I told everybody to bring their bug repellent and we would meet rain or shine. Unless it was torrential, we were going to have this. I told them to bring an umbrella, a bottle of water, and their family and friends."

See pages 4-5 for pictures from this year's parade.

## OOCCL Fall Home Tour

The Old Oak Cliff Conservation League (OOCCL) announces its 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fall Tour of Homes October 13-14, 2007. The tour is Dallas' oldest and largest home tour.

Proceeds from the tour are used to make neighborhood grants to member neighborhoods. Recent grants have included neighborhood signage, pocket parks, and traffic abatement projects. This year, Kessler Plaza received a \$2500 grant for the Plymouth Road median beautification project!

Watch for additional information, as the tour date nears.

## 2007 State Fair of Texas Nearing

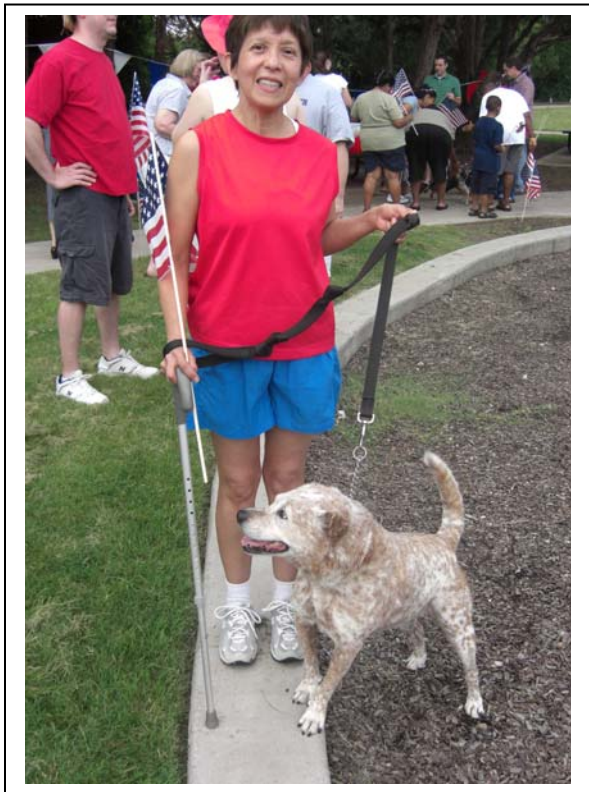
It's nearly Fair time! The 2007 State Fair of Texas opens September 28 at Fair Park, a 277-acre entertainment and recreation complex owned by the City of Dallas, located two miles east of downtown.

The Fair's 24 days of family fun are rooted in annual favorites, including livestock events and shows, Marine bands, the nightly parade, cooking contests and football games.

The 2007 State Fair of Texas runs September 28 - October 21. Exhibit buildings are open from 10:00 AM to 10:00 PM.



# Neighbors Enjoy 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fourth of July Parade



# Neighbors Enjoy 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fourth of July Parade





## Simple Tips to Protect Your Home from Burglary

Most people only think about making their home secure after a burglary has occurred. According to crime reports compiled by the Federal Bureau of Investigation one out of every six homes will be burglarized this year and only one out of every four burglaries involve forced entry. Most burglars enter homes through an open or unlocked window or door. By making it more difficult for intruders to get into your residence, you can greatly reduce your chances of being robbed.

To determine how secure your home is, think like a robber. From the outside of your home, consider how difficult it would be to break in. If you locked yourself out, could you easily break in or climb in through an unlocked window? If you answered yes, then a burglar could answer yes also. Carefully observe any items or objects in your yard that could offer assistance to a would-be thief. Are there any items lying around your home that could actually entice a burglar?

Take a good look at your exterior doors. Do they appear solid and sturdy? Your exterior doors should be constructed of solid wood or metal for the most protection against break-ins. Try inserting a straight pin into the door, if it goes in without much effort, you have a hollow door that can easily be kicked in by burglars.

Make sure that all doors are kept locked at all times. In addition to your door knob or key lock, you should have a high quality dead bolt lock installed on all entry way doors. Not all robberies occur in an unoccupied house, you may also consider a peephole so you can see who is at your door before you open it.

Windows should be closed and locked anytime that you are not in your home or anytime at night. Many burglars, and worse, have easily entered homes through open windows while the home's occupants sleep.

Consider installing window locks on all windows to help prevent them from being broken into. If you have double-hung windows, you can utilize window pinning or track fillers to add inexpensive security. Window pinning is done by inserting a pin or nail above a window so it can't be opened. Track fillers are items such as a wooden pole that is placed into the track of the window.

Lighting, both inside and outside of your home, is one of the best and most economical deterrents for burglars. Indoor lighting gives the impression that a home is occupied while outdoor lighting diminishes places to hide. You should have lights placed near porches, outside of all doorways, garage doors and all other points of entry. Keep any entryways well lit. Statistics have shown that a burglar is less likely to attempt to enter a well-lit residence.

Floodlights are good choices for providing bright light. Motion detecting lights are also good choices for home security. These lights turn on automatically whenever motion is detected nearby. For added security, place some lights out of reach so that the bulbs can't be removed or easily broken. Install flood lights or motion lights on each corner of your house's roof for added light and security. Aim the lights away from the house so that your yard is illuminated, allowing you to see anyone that approaches.

There are a variety of burglar alarms and security systems available. If you have an alarm system installed in your home make sure all household members are properly trained at using it. A top notch security system is worthless if it isn't used...or if it is used improperly.

Burglars have an opportune time to rob your house while you are away from home on business or vacation. Make sure your home looks as if someone is living in it at all times. If possible, ask a trusted friend, neighbor or family member to stay in your home while you are away. Otherwise, arrange for them to visit your house each day to pick up the mail, any newspapers, deliveries, and turn on lights.

If you will be away for a long period of time, consider using light timers that will automatically turn lights off and on at specific times. Have the post office and the newspapers stop your deliveries while you are away. A pile of old newspapers in the driveway are a sure sign that no one is home.

No method is 100 percent effective against burglaries, but with the steps described above, you can decrease your chances of being the next burglary victim.

# Kessler Plaza Neighborhood Association

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## Calendar of Events

**July 31** (Tuesday) – Kessler Plaza Neighborhood Association meeting  
7:00 PM Jefferson Boulevard Church of Christ.

**August 7** (Tuesday) – National Night Out  
7:00 PM Moss Park  
Hot dogs and refreshments will be provided.

**August 9** (Thursday) – Curbside recycling pickup in Kessler Plaza

**August 9** (Thursday) – First day brush and bulky trash may be placed curbside

**August 13-17** – Brush and bulky trash pickup for Kessler Plaza

**August 23** (Thursday) – Curbside recycling pickup in Kessler Plaza

**September 6** (Thursday) – Curbside recycling pickup in Kessler Plaza

**September 6** (Thursday) – First day brush and bulky trash may be placed curbside

**September 8** (Saturday) – KPNA Wine Tour benefiting the Kessler Plaza  
Neighborhood Association.

**September 10-14** – Brush and bulky trash pickup for Kessler Plaza

**September 20** (Thursday) – Curbside recycling pickup in Kessler Plaza

**September 25** (Tuesday) – Kessler Plaza Neighborhood Association meeting  
7:00 PM Jefferson Boulevard Church of Christ.

**October 4** (Thursday) – Curbside recycling pickup in Kessler Plaza

**October 13-14 (Saturday - Sunday)** – OOCL Fall Tour of Homes  
Visit [www.oocl.com](http://www.oocl.com) for additional information.

## About Kessler Plaza

Kessler Plaza—the little neighborhood with the big heart—is bounded on the North by W. Jefferson Blvd., the South by 12<sup>th</sup> St., the East by Hampton Rd., and the West by Cavender St. The neighborhood association generally meets the last Tuesday of every other month at the Jefferson Boulevard Church of Christ. Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. For additional information visit [www.kesslerplaza.com](http://www.kesslerplaza.com)