



Kessler Plaza News

March 23, 2007
Volume 9, Issue 2

The Newsletter of the Kessler Plaza Neighborhood Association



THE LITTLE NEIGHBORHOOD
WITH THE BIG HEART.

Next Neighborhood Meeting:
Tuesday, March 27, 7 p.m.

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Conservation District Proposed Input sought from residents regarding interest

Residents and neighborhood leaders have begun exploring the idea of forming a conservation district for Kessler Plaza.

A Conservation District is a zoning tool used to help communities protect certain characteristics in their neighborhood. Conservation Districts have existed in the city of Dallas since 1988. These districts exist primarily in East Dallas and Oak Cliff. They concentrate on protecting such things as architecture styles, densities of the area, heights of structures, and setback guidelines. The process to become a

conservation district typically takes 12 – 18 months from the initial authorizing of a study until the adoption by the city council.

These districts are similar to and often compared with historic districts. While exhibiting comparable characteristics, the two are quite different. Historic Districts look to preserve the original structure exactly as when it was first built. They also attempt to preserve original materials, colors, styles, and other elements of the original structure. Conservation districts wish to maintain certain

standards of an area.

If you are interested in seeing a conservation district formed for Kessler Plaza, please contact one of the KPNA officers or send an email message to kesslerplazanews@yahoo.com.

The biggest difference between historic and conservation districts is the evaluation process of alterations made to structures within the area. For historic districts, it is necessary to have alterations reviewed by city staff members, neighborhood taskforces, See **Conservation District**, Page 5

Wine Tasting Fundraiser set for April 21

The spring Kessler Plaza Wine Tour returns on Saturday, April 21, 2007! This event promises to be a fun-filled evening as neighbors and guests enjoy the taste of wines from around the world in three beautiful Kessler Plaza homes.

The Wine Tour is a fundraiser for the Kessler

Plaza Neighborhood Association. Proceeds will be used to complete neighborhood beautification projects planned for the year.

Homes are also needed to host the event. If you are interested in helping the KPNA with this fun-filled event, contact Kelly Garcia at (214) 395-8075 or

kelkins_18@yahoo.com (Please include KPNA Wine Night in the title of the email.)

Tickets for the event are \$20 each and will also be available at the door. The event kicks off at 6:30 PM at the first home. Look for additional details at www.kesslerplaza.com.

Next KPNA Meeting Scheduled for March 27, 2007

Plan now to attend the next meeting of the Kessler Plaza Neighborhood Association on Tuesday, March 27, 2007.

Bring your neighbor and learn more about

upcoming plans/projects, crime statistics, and trends for our neighborhood. Meet new neighbors at the meeting!

This informative meeting will be held Tuesday, March 27, 2007 at 7:00

p.m. at the Jefferson Boulevard 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.



President's Corner

by **KEVIN BLOCK**

As I began to think about what I should write for this newsletter's President's Corner, I could not help but think of the excitement around the neighborhood that comes with the warmer weather and arrival of springtime. During the hibernation months of winter, it was harder to find our neighbors walking dogs or pushing their babies in their stroller and the casual conversations that come with them. Now, whether it be the joggers on the sidewalks or the kids playing basketball, you can feel the increased energy up and down our streets.

I think that spring time energy and excitement is an appropriate theme for the "Corner". To echo my thoughts from the last newsletter, this is not just my neighborhood or the executive committee's neighborhood but it is every single person's. It is very important that the progress we make and the ideas that are contributed come from the entire neighborhood. I hope that you are able to harness some of your springtime energy and excitement towards at least one contribution to the Kessler Plaza Neighborhood Association, whether that be a monetary donation, the contribution of a new idea, volunteering your time or whatever else you can manage. Since you are reading this, I gather that you have some interest in the events of the neighborhood so please make this new season the season to make your contribution.

As for the events and news of the neighborhood, we continue to investigate the possibilities of establishing a conservation district in Kessler Plaza and pursue a replacement for the vacant Albertson's building that will have a positive impact on our neighborhood. We will also be holding our next wine tasting fundraiser on April 21st. Keep an eye out for details.

On another topic, I have also heard some feedback that not everybody can make the neighborhood associations because of other commitments on Tuesday nights. After investigating other nights as options, it turns out that there are conflicts on other week nights too, so a program that we would like to introduce this spring is "KPNA Saturday Morning Breakfast with your Neighbors". What we'll do is have a casual get together for coffee, donuts, bagels, etc. at a given house on a Saturday morning in the month when there is not a meeting and talk about neighborhood events and just get to get to know your neighbors a little better. Hopefully this can offset some of the scheduling issues that people have with the Tuesday night meetings. Further details will be communicated about the specific date, time and location.

Finally, in addition to this newsletter, the other main communication method I use to send out information and get feedback about events or news in between publishings of the newsletter is email. If you have not been getting my emails and would like to be added to the neighborhood distribution list, please email me at kevin_c_block@yahoo.com and I will add you to the list.

Enjoy the spring and please remember to do your part to help continue to make Kessler Plaza a great place to live.

Sincerely,

Kevin Block
kevin_c_block@yahoo.com

Thank You Dallas Police Department!

Please join the KPNA in saying "Thank you!" to the men in women in blue.

Kessler Plaza Neighborhood Association will be delivering cookies and snacks to the Southwest Patrol Division on Monday, April 2, 2007 to express our appreciation. For those of you who do not cook, fruit and/or snack bars would be a great way to contribute. For those of you who do enjoy baking, we need people to assist in making cookies and/or brownies.

If you would like to help, call Jennifer Pierce at (214) 333-8333 or at the neighborhood meeting March 27, 2007.

Artisans Host Spring Studio Tour

Seventeen Oak Cliff artists will be showing their work in an eleven stop studio tour, scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, April 21-22, 2007.

The artists are part of a ten year old marketing cooperative known as "Oak Cliff Artisans". Unique items will be offered for sale and participants will have the opportunity to visit with the artists.

The event marks the group's second spring studio tour. The group also offers a fall show just before Thanksgiving at the Kidd Springs Recreational Center.

Oak Cliff Artisans is a cooperative group of artists from the Dallas area. The purpose of the group is to pool resources for showing and marketing their work. Artists in all media are welcome, and new members are encouraged to apply.

For more information about the group as well as a map and pictures of items to be offered, visit www.oakcliffartisans.com.



Attacks Prompt Community Meeting

A dead pet cat and an SUV with bite marks have some Oak Cliff residents searching for ways to put a leash on dangerous dogs. Residents in Kessler Park and Kidd Springs have expressed concern to District 1 City Council member Elba Garcia about the problem, who organized a community meeting to discuss the issue.

Susan Evans-Wickberg, who has lived in the Kidd Springs neighborhood for about 10 years, lost a cat in late January. She said she didn't witness the attack but heard a dog yelp. When she opened her door, she saw a couple of dogs, one of which was a pit bull.

"I saw my cat, and it was obvious he was dead," said Ms. Evans-Wickberg, who immediately called 311. "I was in shock. His fur was all matted and he was slobbery." Later, she spotted the same two dogs in the neighborhood.

Dr. Garcia stresses the need to focus on education, adoption and enforcement.

"We've already addressed some of the facility concerns with more than \$11 million from a recent bond election for a new animal shelter," said Dr. Garcia, who added that Dallas

ethanizes more than 25,000 animals annually. "I believe the city is going in the right direction. We have good partnerships with rescue groups and the SPCA, but we have to have education. Everyone has to know the rules."

Jillce Stevens, who has lived in Kessler Park for eight years, said a pit bull heavily damaged the family's SUV recently while trying to get at their cat that was hidden near the engine. Bite marks on the vehicle pierced the wheel fenders.

State law prohibits local ordinances that ban specific breeds, although the Garland City Council is considering asking the Legislature to drop that law because of problems with pit bull attacks there. And lawmakers may be amenable to change. At least two proposed Senate bills would put more teeth in state laws regarding dangerous or vicious dogs.

Dr. Garcia acknowledged that breed-specific legislation poses legal problems, but she said it may be time to lobby the Legislature for that type of law, as Garland officials are considering.

Oak Cliff Earth Day Celebration

Help make Oak Cliff Earth Day one of the largest Earth Day celebrations in Texas!

On Sunday, April 22, the Oak Cliff community will host an Earth Day Fair and Cultural Festival in Lake Cliff Park from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM. The park is located at Zang and Colorado Boulevards.

Environmental groups, city of Dallas departments, nature preserves, garden clubs, neighborhood beautification groups, "green" businesses and elected officials will all come together to celebrate Earth Day. There will be information on recycling, water conservation, water

quality, air quality, energy conservation, alternative energy, and hybrid vehicles. Local garden clubs will host plant sales and there will be a live butterfly exhibit. Local students will have environment-related Science Fair projects on display, and there will be face painting and other children's activities.

Plus there will be an Arts and Cultural Festival taking place at the same time and place. Various music and dance groups will perform, and several visual artists will have works on display.

For more information, visit www.oakcliffearthday.com.

Water Restrictions Resume April 1

The City of Dallas begins time of day watering restrictions on April 1 that continue through October 31. The restrictions begin earlier this year and are extended for a longer period of time due to a change to the City of Dallas Water Conservation Ordinance.

"Water conservation is very important; every drop counts. Compliance with time of day watering restrictions will help Dallas conserve water," said Carole Davis, water conservation division manager.

Residents must adhere to the following guidelines:

- Don't water your yard between 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM from April 1 through October 31.
- Don't water during any form of precipitation.
- Don't allow your sprinkler system to water driveways, sidewalks or streets.
- Don't waste water by allowing runoff onto a street or other drainage area when you're watering.
- Do hand water or use a soaker hose. Both are permitted at any time.
- Do maintain your sprinkler system. Repair broken, missing or misdirected sprinkler heads.
- Do remember that automatic sprinkler system owners are required to have rain and freeze sensors installed.
- Do remember to monitor your total water usage. If you use more than 15,000 gallons a month, you must pay a surcharge on the amount above 15,000.

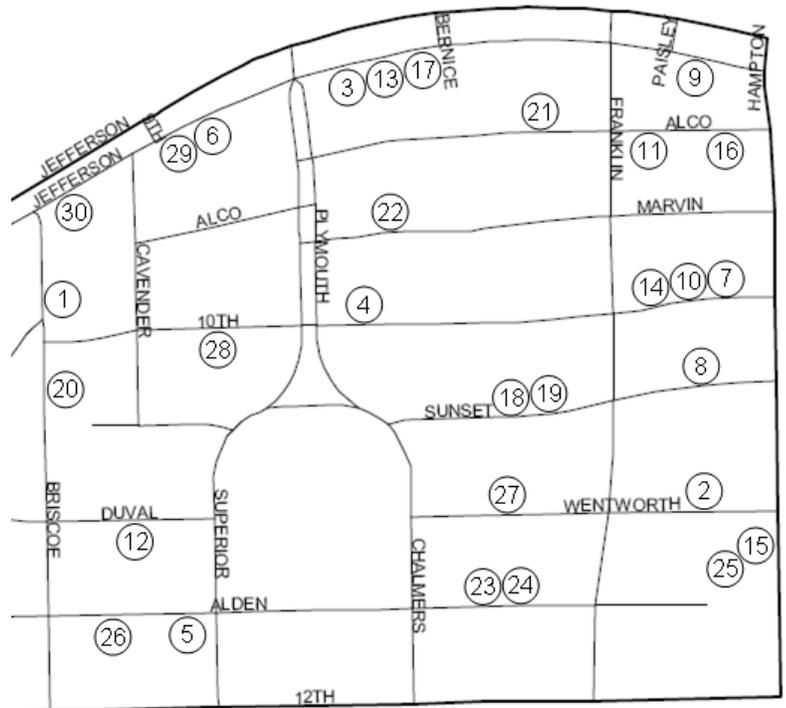
Violations can result in fines of \$250 to \$2,000 per incident. First offenders will be issued a warning. For water saving tips, go to www.savedallaswater.com or call (214) 670-3155.



January/February Crimes Reported for Neighborhood

Crime	Date	Time	Address	Stolen	Method of entry
1. Auto theft	12/31/06	8:00 AM	1XX N. Briscoe Blvd.	Vehicles	
2. Other assault	01/01/07	2:20 PM	24XX Wentworth St.		
3. Theft	01/03/07	7:25 PM	26XX W. Jefferson Blvd.	Motorcycle/minibike	
4. Fraud	01/08/07	12:25 PM	26XX W. Tenth St.	Currency	
5. Vandalism	01/09/07	8:45 PM	27XX Alden Ave.		
6. Other assault	01/10/07	2:40 AM	27XX W. Jefferson Blvd.		
7. Burglary	01/10/07	9:00 AM	24XX W. Tenth St.	Lawn equipment	Pry/break/cut front door
8. Burglary	01/10/07	9:30 AM	24XX Sunset Ave.	Building materials	Sneaked side door
9. Theft	01/10/07	7:30 PM	24XX W. Jefferson Blvd.	Auto parts	
10. Burglary	01/16/07	6:45 AM	24XX W. Tenth St.	Bicycles	Pry/break/cut front door
11. Theft	01/18/07	6:30 AM	24XX Alco Ave.		
12. Burglary	01/18/07	8:15 AM	27XX Duval Dr.	Camera equipment	Smash/kicked rear door
13. Theft	01/18/07	3:40 PM	26XX W. Jefferson Blvd.	Auto Parts	
14. Burglary	01/19/07	5:30 AM	24XX W. Tenth St.		Rear window
15. Theft	01/20/07	10:30 PM	3XX S. Hampton Rd.	Food	
16. Theft	01/22/07	12:00 PM	24XX Alco Ave.	Auto parts	
17. Burglary	01/24/07	8:00 PM	26XX W. Jefferson Blvd.	Motorcycle/minibike	Pry/break/cut front window
18. Theft	01/27/07	8:35 AM	25XX Sunset Ave.	Motorcycle/minibike	
19. Auto theft	01/30/07	10:00 PM	25XX Sunset Ave.	Vehicles	
20. Vandalism	02/02/07	00:00 AM	1XX S. Briscoe Blvd.		
21. Vandalism	02/02/07	6:00 PM	25XX Alco Ave.		
22. Theft	02/03/07	00:30 AM	26XX Marvin Ave.	Auto parts	
23. Tel harass	02/04/07	9:45 AM	25XX Alden Ave.		
24. Theft	02/04/07	11:00 PM	25XX Alden Ave.	Auto parts	
25. Theft	02/10/07	11:00 AM	3XX S. Hampton Rd.	Auto parts	
26. Burglary	02/16/07	6:00 AM	27XX Alden Ave.	Camera Equipment	Pry/break/cut rear door
27. Vandalism	02/18/07	1:00 PM	25XX Wentworth St.		
28. Auto theft	02/19/07	8:00 PM	27XX W. Tenth St.	Auto parts	
29. Burglary	02/24/07	8:47 PM	27XX W. Jefferson Blvd.	Misc.	Pry/break/cut rear window
30. Vandalism	02/28/07	5:11 PM	28XX W. Jefferson Blvd.		

Remember, if you see **ANY** suspicious activity in the neighborhood, call 9-1-1 to report it!



Chamber Launches Crime Initiative

The Oak Cliff Chamber of Commerce has launched a new community initiative to tackle Oak Cliff crime. A committee was formed to brainstorm about crime in a forum that transcends the many individual neighborhoods and crime watches in Oak Cliff.

“There is a lot of research we have to do about how Oak Cliff fares, how we should go forward, what do we need to lobby, and what rules should we change,” says Oak Cliff Chamber President Bob Stimson.

Concerns were raised about a number of crimes the group would like to see the committee address, including graffiti, auto thefts, stray dogs, random gunfire, and loud music played on souped-up car stereo systems. The committee will form a number of task forces to help determine the method of procedure on the various aspects of crime prevention, from enforcement to criminal justice.

The committee may be able to pick up on the momentum already started by the Dallas Police Department’s recent success in Oak Cliff. Dallas Police Department Lt. Sally Lannon says that the southwest division, which includes Oak Cliff, has seen record

cuts in crime during the past three years. Last year crime dropped by 6 percent, with violent crime down 5 percent and property crime down 6 percent.

Getting more people involved in crime fighting in Oak Cliff is just one of the goals Stimson hopes to accomplish in his tenure and said that the public safety committee is one of a number of public committees he hopes to establish in the coming months.

“We want to focus on public safety because a lot of people care about that,” Stimson said. “We also want to deal with education, the arts in the community, and economic development — specifically retail.”

Mayoral Forum Scheduled

Plan now to attend a Mayoral Candidate Forum in Oak Cliff on Thursday, April 5, 2007. All announced candidates have been invited and only the certified candidates appearing on the May 12 ballot can participate.

The event will be held at Hitt Auditorium at Methodist Dallas Medical Center. Doors open at 5:30 PM, with the forum beginning at 6:30 PM and ending at 9:00 PM. The auditorium is located in the Services Building at the corner of Colorado and Bishop.

The event is sponsored by the Old Oak Cliff Conservation League, the Oak Cliff Chamber of Commerce, The Oak Cliff Tribune and Methodist Health System.

Taste of Oak Cliff

Join the fun and enjoy some food at “A Taste of Oak Cliff”. The event takes place in the Bishop Arts District on Sunday, April 22, 2007, from 12:00 noon- 8:00 PM.

A Taste of Oak Cliff will feature a long list of restaurants selling authentic ethnic food, local businesses showcasing their products and services, local and regional talent will perform live shows on main stage, activities for children, arts and crafts booths and plenty of fun for the entire family.

For booth, sponsorships or general information, contact Raymond Macias at (214) 403-7124.

Conservation District

Continued from Page 1

and finally the Landmark Commission. This process can take 4–6 weeks. For conservation districts, alterations are reviewed by city staff members only. This can take as little as 1 day or up to 2 weeks depending on the work to be done.

There are currently 14 conservation districts in the City of Dallas, including King’s Highway, Hollywood Heights/Santa Monica, North Cliff, Bishop/8th Street, M Streets, Greenway Parks, and Vickery Place.

Register to Vote!

Residents not registered to vote must do so by April 12 in order to vote in the May 12 municipal elections.

To be eligible to register in Texas, you must: be a U.S. citizen; be a resident of the county; be 18 years old; not a convicted felon (unless a person's sentence is completed, including any probation or parole); and not declared mentally incapacitated by a court of law.

For additional information visit: <http://www.dalcoelections.org/>.

KPNA Neighbor Breakfast Planned

The first KPNA Saturday Morning Breakfast with your Neighbors event will be held April 28 at the home of Kevin and Jacquelyn Block at 2503 W. Tenth St. Plan now to attend where you can meet and greet neighbors in a casual setting over coffee and donuts. The breakfast begins at 9:00 AM.

For information or to RSVP, contact Kevin at kevin_c_block@yahoo.com or (214) 333-0001.



Kessler Plaza Neighborhood Association

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Calendar of Events

March 27 (Tuesday) – Kessler Plaza Neighborhood Association meeting
7:00 PM Jefferson Boulevard Church of Christ.

April 5 (Thursday) – First day brush and bulky trash may be placed curbside

April 5 (Thursday) – Curbside recycling pickup in Kessler Plaza

April 5 (Thursday) – Mayoral Candidate Forum
6:30 – 9:00 PM, Hitt Auditorium, Methodist Dallas Medical Center.

April 8 (Sunday) – Easter

April 9-13 – Brush and bulky trash pickup for Kessler Plaza

April 12 (Thursday) – Last day to register to vote before the May 12 elections.

April 19 (Thursday) – Curbside recycling pickup in Kessler Plaza

April 21 (Saturday) – KPNA Wine Tour benefiting the Kessler Plaza Neighborhood Association.

April 21-22 – Oak Cliff Artisans Spring Studio Tour
Visit www.oakcliffartisans.com for additional information and details.

April 22 (Sunday) – A Taste of Oak Cliff
12:00 noon – 8:00 PM, Bishop Arts District
Contact Raymond Macias at (214) 403-7124 for booth, sponsorships or general information.

April 22 (Sunday) – Oak Cliff Earth Day
11:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Lake Cliff Park
Visit www.oakcliffearthday.com for additional information.

April 28 (Saturday) – KPNA Saturday Morning Breakfast with your Neighbors
9:00 AM, 2503 West 10th St. For additional information, contact Kevin Block at kevin_c_block@yahoo.com or (214) 333-0111.

April 30 – May 8 – Early voting for May 12 Municipal Elections. Registered voters can vote early at any early voting location in Dallas County. Visit <http://www.dalcoelections.org> for additional information.

May 3 (Thursday) – Curbside recycling pickup in Kessler Plaza

May 10 (Thursday) – First day brush and bulky trash may be placed curbside

May 12 (Saturday) – Municipal Election
Registered voters living in Kessler Plaza can vote at the Jefferson Boulevard Church of Christ.

May 14-18 – Brush and bulky trash pickup for Kessler Plaza

May 17 (Thursday) – Curbside recycling pickup in Kessler Plaza

May 31 (Thursday) – Curbside recycling pickup

June 16 (Saturday) – Municipal Election Runoffs

About Kessler Plaza

Kessler Plaza—the little neighborhood with the big heart—is bounded on the North by W. Jefferson Blvd., the South by 12th 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