



Kessler Plaza News

May 25, 2007
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The Newsletter of the Kessler Plaza Neighborhood Association



THE LITTLE NEIGHBORHOOD
WITH THE BIG HEART.

Next Neighborhood Meeting:
Tuesday, May 29, 7 p.m.

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Mayoral Election Runoff Dallas voters to decide between Leppert and Oakley

Dallas voters will return to the polls June 16 for runoff elections to elect a Mayor and several City Council representatives.

Former Turner Corp. chief executive Tom Leppert captured 27% of the mayoral vote in the May 12 election, while District 3 City Council member Ed Oakley received 21% of the vote, both well short of the 50% required to win the election outright. In precinct 4430 (which includes Kessler Plaza),

however, Oakley captured over 54% of the votes cast while Leppert garnered just over 17%.

Joseph Hernandez and Dave Neumann will face off in the runoff for the District 3 City Council position. Hernandez received 32% of the vote compared to 36% for Neumann, forcing the runoff.

Just over 20% of the registered voters in Precinct 4430 (which

includes Kessler Plaza) voted, well above the city-wide average voter turnout of 13%.

The runoff election will be Saturday, June 16, 2007, with early voting available June 4-12. Registered voters may vote in the runoff even if they did not vote on May 12. For additional election information, visit the Dallas County Elections site at

www.dalcoelections.org.

Wine Tasting Fundraiser set for June 16

The Kessler Plaza International Summer Wine Tour returns on Saturday, June 16, 2007! This event promises to be a fun-filled evening as neighbors and guests enjoy the taste of wines and foods from three different countries around the world in three beautiful Kessler Plaza homes.

The event kicks off at 6:00

PM at 2603 Marvin Ave. featuring Australian wines. The second home at 2643 W. Tenth St. will feature Spanish wines beginning at 7:15 PM. The final home at 2519 Marvin Ave. will feature California wines beginning at 8:30 PM.

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.

Tickets for the event are \$20 each. Purchase your tickets now by contacting Kelly Garcia at (214) 395-8075 or kelkins_18@yahoo.com (Please include KPNA Wine Night in the title of the email.) Tickets will also be available at the door.

Next KPNA Meeting Scheduled for May 29, 2007

Plan now to attend the next meeting of the Kessler Plaza Neighborhood Association on Tuesday, May 29, 2007.

Bring your neighbor and learn more about upcoming plans/projects, crime statistics, and trends for our

neighborhood. Meet new neighbors at the meeting!

The meeting should end in time for residents to also enjoy the Dallas Symphony Orchestra's free concert at Kiest Park beginning at 8:00 PM.

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**

Dear Neighbors,

I hope that you have enjoyed your spring so far. It has certainly been an active one in Oak Cliff. There have been numerous activities and events that will continue to shape Dallas as well as our neighborhood.

First and foremost, the Dallas mayoral election has come and gone...with the winner still to be determined. With the number of candidates on the ballot, the election resulted in no candidate gaining the majority and a run off between Tom Leppert and Ed Oakley. The run off will be held June 16th with early voting occurring between June 4 to June 12. For those of you who voted in this first round, well done. For those who did not, you have your chance to still make a difference. Not to be too preachy but having the right to vote is not one that should be taken for granted.

In addition to the mayoral elections there has been a number of activities right in our backyard. In April, Oak Cliff held a developer forum which highlighted and gave overviews to eight projects that are planned or in progress in North Oak Cliff. There continues to be a great influx of projects that will continue to put North Oak Cliff on the map. These projects range from an eight house development to overhauling multiple apartment complexes.

Closer to home, since our last letter, we have held a couple of successful neighborhood events. First, we held another successful wine tasting fundraiser bringing in over \$550 for the neighborhood association. Thanks go out to Kelly for her work organizing the night, and our hosts Eric, Bubba & Juan and Gene & Chance. We also held our first KPNA "Breakfast with the neighbors". It was

a great chance to get to chat with some of our neighbors over coffee and donuts/bagels. We will be holding another one soon for those of you who missed it.

As far as KPNA activities, in addition to the neighborhood association continuing with our longer running projects, such as installation of four way stop signs and acquiring conservation district status we will be completing the sign toppers on the remainder of the street signs. We are applying for a grant from the Oak Cliff Conservation league for assistance with the completion of that project.

Finally, I want to remind everybody that this neighborhood and neighborhood association does not run itself. It takes more than me, the executive committee or the few others that continue to donate their time to our efforts. Please make the commitment to do at least one thing for the neighborhood before our next letter; whether that be attending the neighborhood association meeting, volunteering for an event, making a monetary donation or even something like walking over to a new neighbor's house to introduce yourself.

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 and I will get you added so that you can stay informed.

Until next time,
Kevin

Good Neighbor Lends a Helping Hand

Humberto Elguea, owner of the Buena Vista Mexican food restaurant on Fort Worth Ave. recently came to the rescue of long-time Kessler Plaza resident Nola Rae Smith.

Ms. Smith was eating at Buena Vista recently when she received a call from her house guest about water leak in her house due to a broken toilet hose. Humberto happened to be talking to Nola Rae at her table when she received the call and immediately offered to go with her to her home. Within an hour, Humberto had taken off the broken hose, drove to Home Depot to pick up a replacement, and returned to her home to put on the new hose. As luck would have it, that was also the night Nola Rae had tickets for the Dallas Summer Musicals. Thanks to Mr. Elguea's help and generosity, Nola Rae and her guest were able to make it to the show on time!

You never know when a crisis will happen or who will come to your rescue! We should always try to help each other for it is in giving that we receive!

Humberto has also sponsored a home for a recent neighborhood wine tour fundraiser. Thank you for your generosity and humanitarian efforts!

Thank You to KPNA Donors

The Kessler Plaza Neighborhood Association extends a special thank you to our neighbors and friends who have paid dues and made contributions to the association. The money is used to complete neighborhood beautification projects planned for the year.

If you would like to make a contribution to the KPNA, contact Emily Glidewell at (214) 339-3433 or e.glidewell@worldnet.att.net.



Readers are Leaders Program Begins

The annual Mayor's Summer Reading Program, "Readers are Leaders" will kick off Saturday, May 19, and end July 28. Dallas area children up to age 18 are encouraged to participate. Children can register at any of the 25 branches of the Dallas Public Library or at the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, 1515 Young St.

Throughout the summer, children will be asked to log the time they spend reading. Children will be classified according to their grade level, but even children who can't read themselves can participate if someone reads to them.

Summer reading increases a child's ability to perform well in the next school year by expanding their

vocabularies and helping them become better writers. It is also proven to stimulate the right side of the brain and opens the mind to new possibilities. Reading can relieve stress, be entertaining, relaxing and rejuvenating.

The Dallas Public Library has offered a special summer reading program for more than 40 years. In 1997, it became known as the Mayor's Summer Reading Program because of the support of the Mayor's office. Since that time, more than 150,000 kids have participated in the program. Each year, the Mayor's Summer Reading Program enrolls more than 15,000 children who, in turn, read almost 400,000 hours!

Contest to Name Greenest City

Dallas residents can make our city the "greenest" in America by participating in the Yahoo! "Be a Better Planet Greenest City Challenge". The winning city will receive 10 fuel-efficient hybrid taxis, or an equivalent cash donation for a greening project.

To earn points for Dallas, go to <http://better.yahoo.com/planet>, and complete any of the activities. Points are earned by taking the Green Pledge and committing to such actions as changing light bulbs, taking public transportation, using reusable shopping bags, properly inflating tires, and recycling more often.

Every "green" action earns points that contribute to Dallas' overall ranking. Participants also receive a free energy-efficient compact fluorescent light bulb for completing any of the activities.

"This is a great opportunity for residents to increase awareness of "green issues" while supporting their city, and our environmental efforts," said Laura Fiffick, Director of Environmental Quality. "The more people who take the pledge, the more points for Dallas, and the better chance we'll have to capture the title."

The contest ends June 8.

DSO Presents Free Summer Concert

The Dallas Symphony Orchestra is again presenting a free performance at Kiest Park on Tuesday, May 29, at 8:00 PM.

The Community Parks Concerts Series is an integral part of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra's increasing community outreach efforts. These concerts provide the organization an opportunity to reach potential new audiences and exhibit its commitment to the enrichment of our city.

Bring a picnic blanket, a basket of food and wine, and enjoy the music surrounded by the landscaping restorations completed by the Friends of Oak Cliff Parks. Music will include Tchaikovsky's "Waltz of the Flowers," Brahms' "Hungarian Dance No. 1," and Bernstein's "Overture" to West Side Story. Enter the park at the south entrance off Kiest Blvd. The stage is a short walk from plentiful parking.

City to Conduct 2007 Citizen Survey

The 2007 Citizen Survey is now in the mailboxes of randomly selected Dallas households. The City of Dallas wants to know what people think about the quality of the services they are getting. This is the third year in a row that residents have been asked to rate the quality of city services, ranging from fire and police services to storm water drainage to garbage collection.

"Folks who receive the survey should definitely fill it out and send it back," said Eric Griffin, Assistant Director of Strategic Customer Services. "We want to be known for our attention to improving customer service so it's important to find out from our customers what they think is working and what's not," Griffin said.

The survey is being conducted by the National Research Center, an affiliate of the International City/County Management Association. Residents are asked to return the completed survey by May 21. All survey information will remain anonymous.

Survey results will be shared with the public and the Dallas City Council in June, and will be used to benchmark service performance, make funding decisions and compare how Dallas stacks up against other cities.

For more information on the City of Dallas 2007 Citizen Survey, go to www.dallascityhall.com or call 311, the city's nonemergency service number.

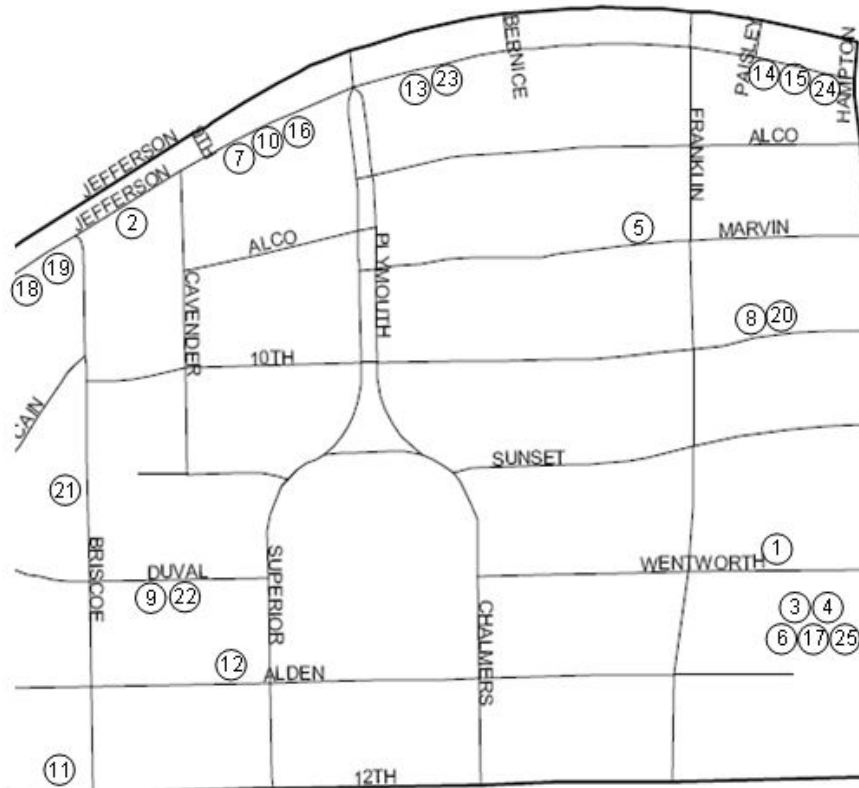
Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to assist with projects for the Oak Cliff Conservation League, including for the league's largest project—the fall tour of homes. Volunteering provides a great opportunity for being involved on a larger scale in the community and to help Kessler Plaza at the same time. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Rhonda Turner at (214) 707-4137 or rhonda2830@yahoo.com.



January/February Crimes Reported for Neighborhood

Crime	Date	Time	Address	Stolen Items
1. Theft	03/01/07	9:48 AM	24XX Wentworth St.	Building materials
2. Other Assault	03/07/07	4:30 PM	28XX W. Jefferson Blvd.	
3. Theft	03/08/07	3:52 PM	3XX S. Hampton Rd.	Drugs
4. Auto Theft	03/13/07	10:00 AM	3XX S. Hampton Rd.	Vehicles
5. Tel Harass	03/13/07	5:15 PM	25XX Marvin Ave.	
6. Theft	03/13/07	6:30 PM	3XX S. Hampton Rd.	Food
7. Theft	03/13/07	8:00 PM	27XX W. Jefferson Blvd.	Auto parts
8. Vandal	03/15/07	9:00 PM	25XX W. Tenth St.	
9. Auto Theft	03/15/07	9:30 PM	27XX Duval Dr.	
10. Other Assault	03/21/07	2:40 PM	27XX W. Jefferson Blvd.	
11. Vandal	03/21/07	8:00 PM	28XX W. Twelfth St.	
12. Vandal	03/29/07	1:25 AM	27XX Alden Ave.	
13. Narcotics	04/04/07	12:30 PM	26XX W. Jefferson Blvd.	
14. Auto Theft	04/08/07	12:30 PM	24XX W. Jefferson Blvd.	Vehicles
15. Tel Harassment	04/13/07	12:00 PM	24XX W. Jefferson Blvd.	
16. Theft	04/15/07	00:40 AM	27XX W. Jefferson Blvd.	
17. Other Assault	04/15/07	4:36 PM	3XX N. Hampton Rd.	
18. Other Assault	04/22/07	9:50 AM	29XX W. Jefferson Blvd.	
19. Other Assault	04/22/07	9:50 AM	29XX W. Jefferson Blvd.	
20. Theft	04/25/07	10:00 PM	24XX W. Tenth St.	Auto parts
21. Vandal	04/26/07	8:30 AM	02XX S. Briscoe Blvd.	
22. Theft	04/26/07	8:00 PM	27XX Duval Dr.	
23. Robbery	04/27/07	5:30 PM	26XX W. Jefferson Blvd.	Motorcycle/Minibike
24. Theft	04/28/07	4:00 AM	24XX W. Jefferson Blvd.	Televisions
25. Theft	04/30/07	1:00 PM	03XX S. Hampton Rd.	Currency



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

Projects Planned for North Oak Cliff

Developers recently met with residents of North Oak Cliff in a town hall gathering to share plans for projects that could dramatically reshape North Oak Cliff. Builders detailed plans for more than a half-dozen developments with more than 2,000 new homes, shops and entertainment venues.

The most ambitious of the projects is being done by developer INCAP Fund. The real estate firm is buying several apartment complexes near Davis Street and Hampton Road with plans for almost 1,700 new residential units.

The developer is teaming up with the builders of the successful Kessler Woods community near Stevens Park Golf Course. The neighborhood of modern-style houses will be expanded with more single-family homes plus a complex of townhomes and condominiums.

"We expect to have somewhere around 100 units built on 9.2 acres," said Kessler Woods builder Matt Holley. "Kessler Woods will be just part of the overall plan."

INCAP Fund is trying to acquire additional apartments in the area, most of them decades old.

On Fort Worth Avenue near Sylvan Avenue, urban condo builders are joining forces with the developers of the Belmont Hotel to construct a complex of retail space and 70 condominiums. In addition, a 34-townhouse development adjacent to the Belmont Hotel is already under construction. The first condos planned in the development will cost less than \$200,000.

Further west on Fort Worth Avenue near Hampton, developers have bought up about 30 acres for the La Reunion Towncenter project. The first purchase was the sprawling Colorado Place apartments. The builders plan a mixed-use development with townhouses, apartments, retail space and entertainment such as a movie theater. Construction is expected to begin in September.

Construction has already started on the Kessler Springs home community on Cedar Hill Avenue near Methodist Hospital. The development includes eight luxury homes on the property, with four already under construction. Each home features a different architecture and is priced from \$729,000 to over \$1 million.

Red Light Camera Safety Program

To help combat the serious problem of red-light running, the City of Dallas implemented its automated red-light enforcement program in December 2006. The program uses photo enforcement technology to enforce the law fairly and consistently, with the goal of reducing violations, preventing crashes and injuries, and saving lives.

Each year, red light runners cause as many as 218,000 traffic collisions in the United States. On average, more than 180,000 people are injured and nearly 900 people are killed in these crashes. These injuries and deaths cost the public some \$14 billion annually, according to the Federal Highway Administration. Texas has the fourth highest number of red light running fatalities per capita in the nation.

Photo Enforcement Cameras are clearly not a replacement for police officers. An automated enforcement program is one component of a broad-based traffic safety program including engineering, education and traditional law enforcement.

Time of Day Watering Restrictions now in Place

Time of day watering restrictions began April 1 and will continue through October 31. The restrictions began 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.

Customers are reminded to adhere to the following guidelines:

- Don't water your yard between 10

a.m. and 6 p.m. from April 1 through Oct. 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 any 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.



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Calendar of Events

May 29 (Tuesday) – Kessler Plaza Neighborhood Association meeting
7:00 PM Jefferson Boulevard Church of Christ.

May 31 (Thursday) – Curbside recycling pickup in Kessler Plaza

June 4 – 12 – Early voting for June 16 mayoral runoff elections. Registered voters can vote early at any early voting location in Dallas County. Visit <http://www.dalcoelections.org> for additional information.

June 7 (Thursday) – First day brush and bulky trash may be placed curbside

June 11-15 – Brush and bulky trash pickup for Kessler Plaza

June 14 (Thursday) – Last day to register to vote before the May 12 elections.

June 16 (Saturday) – Mayoral Runoff Election
Registered voters living in Kessler Plaza can vote at the Jefferson Boulevard Church of Christ.

June 16 (Saturday) – KPNA Wine Tour benefiting the Kessler Plaza Neighborhood Association.

June 28 (Thursday) – Curbside recycling pickup in Kessler Plaza

July 4 (Wednesday) – 2nd Annual Fourth of July Parade in Moss Park.
Watch for additional details.

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

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

July 12 (Thursday) – Curbside recycling pickup in Kessler Plaza

July 26 (Thursday) – Curbside recycling pickup

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