



Kessler Plaza News

March 21, 2008
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The Newsletter of the Kessler Plaza Neighborhood Association



THE LITTLE NEIGHBORHOOD
WITH THE BIG HEART.

Next Neighborhood Meeting:
Tuesday, March 25, 7 p.m.

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Texas Voters Return to Polls Runoff elections to decide candidates in primary races

Texas voters will return to the polls April 8 for runoff elections in both the Democratic and Republican primaries. In Texas primaries, if no candidate gets a majority of the vote, there is a runoff between the top two finishers.

Registered voters may vote in the runoff even if they did not vote in the March 4 election. However, if you voted in one party's primary, you may only vote in that party's runoff.

Runoffs will be held in the following Democratic races:

- US Representative, District 32: Steve Love

- and Eric Roberson
- Railroad Commissioner: Dale Henry and Mark Thomson
- Criminal District Judge Court No. 3: Gracie Lewis and David Jordan
- County Tax Assessor-Collector: Diana L. Lackey and John R. Ames

Runoffs will be held in the following Republican race:

- County Sheriff: Jim Bowles and Lowell Cannaday

Early voting for the runoff elections will be from March 31 to April 4. Registered voters may vote at any Dallas County early voting location. On Election Day, voters must

vote in the voting location for their precinct.

The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. on April 8, 2008. Registered voters living in Kessler Plaza are currently scheduled to vote at the Jefferson Boulevard Church of Christ, located at the corner of Jefferson Blvd. and Franklin St. Since precinct voting locations may be consolidated for runoff elections, visit www.dalcoelections.org for additional information including early voting times, locations, and sample ballots.

Kessler Derby to Benefit Kessler School

Giddy-Up to the Kessler School's Kessler Derby!

The Kessler School, located within the Kessler Park United Methodist Church building at the corner of Colorado Boulevard and Turner Avenue in North Oak Cliff, invites area residents to their biggest and best

fundraiser of the year—the Kessler Derby!

The Kessler Derby is Friday, April 18, 2008 from 5:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. at Lone Star Park in Grand Prairie. The evening promises to be a night of philanthropy and fun on behalf of the school, including live

horse racing, buffet dinner, live auction, silent auction, and entertainment. More than 100 items will be available for bidding. Tickets are \$50 per person and must be paid in advance.

See **Kessler School** Back Page

Next KPNA Meeting Scheduled for March 25

Plan now to attend the next meeting of the Kessler Plaza Neighborhood Association on Tuesday, March 25, 2008.

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 25, 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,

Since we last met, there was a big election held in the area. I am pleased to say that everybody is satisfied with the results. With that, I would like to introduce Chance Spiker as the new KPNA Vice President.

Oh, yes, there was also the Presidential Primaries that captivated our state's, and the nation's attention, but we will get into that at a later time. Chance has been involved with KPNA in the past and has always been an active member, so I welcome him to the executive team and know that he will make a positive impact on our neighborhood.

As we move into the spring and summer months in KPNA, I want to

repeat the message that I have continued to carry since I started in this position. That is, the executive team or members of the KPNA committees do not run the neighborhood. The neighborhood itself does. We cannot continue to make KPNA a great place to live with the help of just the same few people. For those of you who have lent a helping hand by volunteering time or money, thank you. For the rest, you have the opportunity to make an impact as well.

As far as current activities, we are planning another wine social in the next month or two. As well, we have finally gotten the IRS requirements for 501(c)3 non-profit tax status application and it has been submitted. Once approved, this will allow

donations to KPNA to be tax deductible, hopefully increasing our ability to raise funds. Currently, our idea for this year's OOCCL grant program is to install some kind of KPNA sign on one of the medians on Plymouth Ave. Details are yet to be defined but if you have any other suggestions, please send them to me.

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

Local Voters Turn Out in Record Numbers for March 4 Primaries

Kessler Plaza residents turned out in record number for the March 4 Texas primary elections.

476 voters representing 37.2% of the registered voters in Precinct 4430 (which includes Kessler Plaza) cast ballots in the Democratic primary. 74 voters representing 5.8% of the registered voters cast ballots in the Republican primary. For all of Dallas County, 298,612 voters (25.6%) of the registered votes cast ballots in the Democratic primary, while 92,636 voters (8.2%) cast ballots in the Republican primary.

The race drawing the most attention was the Presidential election. Precinct 4430 voters cast 330 votes (69.7%) for Hillary Clinton and 140 votes (29.5%) for Barack Obama in the Democratic primary. In the Republican primary, Precinct 4430 voters cast 37 votes (50.1%) for John McCain and 28 votes (38.4%) for Mike Huckabee.

Also of interest were the Precinct Conventions held as part of the Democratic primary. Texas Democrats allocate 126 delegates based on the primary election and 67 delegates based on the precinct conventions—or caucuses. Voters at the precinct level caucus and elect delegates to the County or Senatorial District Convention on March 29. Those conventions elect delegates to the state convention on June 6-7 where the 67 national delegates are ultimately determined.

In Precinct 4430, 172 voters participated in the precinct convention with 114 (66.2%) caucusing for Hillary Clinton and 58 (33.7%) caucusing for Barack Obama. Based on those results, Precinct 4430 allocated 12 of its 18 delegates to the Senatorial Convention to Hillary Clinton with 6 delegates allocated to Barack Obama. Delegates to the 23rd Senatorial Convention will caucus on March 29, 2008 at the Ellis Davis Field House at 9191 S. Polk St.

Hampton Road Bridge Update

Construction of the Hampton Road bridge continues to progress. Construction of one side of the new bridge is complete and traffic has switched to the new bridge. With traffic on the new bridge segment, the old bridge spans will be demolished, and drilling of the shafts for the next half of the bridge can begin. The process will mirror the construction of the first portion of the bridge.

Work also continues on the road construction on the east side of the bridge. Lime-stabilized subgrade has been placed, and Ed Bell Construction is finishing up asphalt subgrade for the current phase of the road construction. Pouring of concrete will start soon. After traffic is switched to the newly-poured lanes, underground utility work will commence on the next phase of the street reconstruction.

The entire project is scheduled to be completed in September 2009.



KittiCo Cat Rescue Focuses on Trap-Neuter-Return

KittiCo Cat Rescue is a non-profit no-kill organization dedicated to helping reduce overpopulation of homeless cats and kittens by providing spay-neuter services for feral and stray cats, with special emphasis on cats cared for by the elderly, disabled, and persons of low incomes. In addition, KittiCo helps educate the public about humane reduction of animal overpopulation through spay-neuter and trap-neuter-return (TNR) programs.

Approximately 7-10 million adoptable cats, and dogs, are killed at U.S. shelters every year because there aren't enough loving homes to go around. Roughly twice as many cats, than dogs, make up this figure. This pet overpopulation crisis is the direct result of animals left unaltered in our communities. The ONLY humane, and effective, way of addressing the

overpopulation crisis is through spay, and neuter, surgery.

Although there are many groups in the Dallas Fort Worth area doing rescue and adoption work, KittiCo is one of the few groups in the area pursuing TNR and spay/neuter on a large scale. In 2007, over 7,000 cats were spayed/neutered at the KittiCo clinic. Recent statistics are showing a noticeable reduction in the number of cats taken in by Dallas Animal Services, offering evidence that the program is effective.

The most common complaints about feral cats include fighting, yowling, and spraying. Spaying and neutering these cats results in reducing these behaviors, usually within about 30 days. The treated cats are normally healthier and the number of cats in the area should stabilize and

gradually reduce through attrition. Simply removing the cats does not work—typically, this just results in other cats moving into the vacant territory. KittiCo has found that stabilizing the colony through sterilization is the better solution.

Spayed/Neutered cats do NOT roam, spray, fight, breed, or spread diseases. They DO keep other cats from entering their territory and destroy mice, rats and snakes. Once they have been spayed/neutered, they are very beneficial and peaceful animals; normally only coming out at night. These sweet cats deserve a decent, good life with a reliable food source. They are the victims of irresponsible human beings; they just need a chance.

For additional information—or to make a contribution—visit www.kittico.org.

Following Simple Tips May Help Prevent Auto Thefts

A car is stolen in Texas every 5 minutes. Unfortunately, even vehicles in Kessler Plaza have recently been stolen. Not only does auto theft cost the victim time and money, but it also drives insurance premiums up and many times stolen vehicles are used to commit other crimes.

No matter what kind of vehicle you drive, old or new—car or truck—you could be the next victim. The following tips could help keep you and your vehicle safe.

Take Your Keys. One out of every five vehicles stolen had the keys in it.

Lock Your Car. Almost half of all vehicles stolen were left unlocked.

Don't Hide a Second Set of Keys in Your Car. Extra keys can easily be found if a thief takes time to look.

If You Have a Garage, Use It. If you have a garage, take the time to

use it rather than parking outside where your vehicle is more vulnerable.

When parking in a Garage, Lock the Garage Door and Your Vehicle. By locking both the garage and vehicle doors, the chances of deterring a thief greatly improve.

Park in Well-lit Areas. Over half of all vehicle thefts occur at night.

Don't leave your car running unattended. Vehicles are commonly stolen at convenience stores, gas stations, ATM's, etc. Many vehicles are also stolen on cold mornings when the owner leaves the vehicle running to warm up.

Completely Close Car Windows When Parking. Don't make it any easier for the thief to enter your vehicle.

Hide Your Valuables. Don't make

your car a more desirable target for thieves by leaving valuables in plain sight.

Park With Your Wheels Turned Toward the Curb. Make your car tough to tow away. Wheels should also be turned to the side in driveways and parking lots.

Always Use Your Emergency Brake When Parking. In addition to ensuring safety, using the emergency brake makes your car harder to tow.

Don't leave the registration or Title in Your Car. A car thief will use these to sell your stolen car. File the title at your home or office, and carry registration in your purse or wallet.

Park in Attended Lots. Auto thieves do not like witnesses and prefer unattended parking lots.



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Kessler School Fundraiser Planned for April 18

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All proceeds benefit the children of The Kessler School, a 501(c)3 organization.

The event will go on, rain or shine as races continue even in pouring rain! Even if there is nearby lightning and the races are called off, the Kessler Derby will GO ON with even more gusto!



To purchase tickets online using PayPal, visit the school's Website at www.thekesslerschool.com and click the **DERBY** icon near the top of the screen. For additional information or to purchase tickets, contact Cindy Hendricks at (214) 943-4838.

Calendar of Events

March 23 (Sunday) – Easter

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

March 31-April 4 – Early voting for April 8 Primary Runoff Elections
For additional information, visit www.dalcoelections.org.

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

April 8 (Tuesday) – Primary Runoff Election Day
Registered voters in Kessler Plaza will vote at the Jefferson Blvd. Church of Christ. Polls are open 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM. For additional information, visit www.dalcoelections.org.

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

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

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

April 18 (Friday) – Kessler Derby fundraiser benefiting the Kessler School
5:30 PM – 10:30 PM at Lone Star Park in Grand Prairie
Visit www.thekesslerschool.com for additional details.

May 1 (Thursday) – Curbside recycling pickup in Kessler Plaza

May 15 (Thursday) – Curbside recycling pickup in Kessler Plaza

May 12-16 – Brush and bulky trash pickup for Kessler Plaza

May 29 (Thursday) – Curbside recycling pickup in Kessler Plaza

May 26 (Monday) – Memorial Day

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