



# Kessler Plaza News

May 22, 2008  
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The Newsletter of the Kessler Plaza Neighborhood Association



THE LITTLE NEIGHBORHOOD  
WITH THE BIG HEART.

**Next Neighborhood Meeting:**  
Tuesday, May 27, 7 p.m.

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## Ready, Set, Read!

### Mayor's summer reading program to begin May 31

By midsummer when your children are moaning, "Mom, there's nothing to do," introduce them to new friends, or reacquaint them with familiar pals like Little Bill and Amelia Bedelia, wizards and hobbits, warrior cats and a Big Red Dog.

Reading about the adventures of these characters or a million others, real and imagined, can bring hours of entertainment and prizes, too, from burgers to ball

game tickets.

Simply sign up for the Mayor's Summer Reading Program at a Dallas Public Library branch or bookmobile, then turn in the hours your child spends reading between May 31 and August 9. Any child through age 18 can participate. Parents, caregivers, brother and sisters are encouraged to read to those who cannot read by themselves.

Need help deciding on a

book? Ask a librarian for suggestions. It's not a competition, but rather a chance for children to exercise their reading muscles and stay in shape for school. The End-of-Summer Reading Party is August 23 at the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library.

## Wine Tasting Fundraiser set for June 7

The Kessler Plaza International Summer Wine Tour returns on Saturday, June 7, 2008! 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 6:30

PM at 2638 Marvin Ave. featuring Australian wines. The second home at 2519 Marvin Ave. will feature Chilean wines beginning at 7:30 PM. The final home at 2430 Alco St. 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.

Suggested donation for the event is \$20 per person. For additional information, contact Kelly Garcia at (214) 395-8075 or [kgracia@hksinc.com](mailto:kgracia@hksinc.com). Tickets will be available at the door.

## Next KPNA Meeting Scheduled for May 27, 2008

Plan now to attend the next meeting of the Kessler Plaza Neighborhood Association on Tuesday, May 27, 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, May 27, 2008 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**

I hope that everyone has enjoyed this spring, as it looks like we are turning the corner to our familiar Texas summer. The best part of the warmer weather to me is that more neighbors are out walking around, working in their yard or sitting on their porch (usually with a good drink). It's nice to get caught up with some of the neighbors who may have been in their winter hibernation.

While most of the faces out in the neighborhood are familiar, there are some new ones. There has been another spring flow of new neighbors moving into Kessler Plaza. If you have new neighbors near you or see them at their house as you are walking around, please introduce yourself and welcome them to the neighborhood.

Also, while you are introducing yourself, you can slip in a plug for

KPNA or even our wine/beer tasting neighborhood fundraisers. This will help in a few ways. First, it's always good to help foster a closer neighborhood feeling. Second, maybe they are willing to help donate some of their time to KPNA. Finally, the more we know our neighbors, the better off we are in terms of safety and crime prevention.

At this point, I would like to thank those who do donate your time to KPNA in our various activities. If you do not participate and would like to, please contact me at the email address below, we are always open to getting new people involved.

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

## **National Night Out Scheduled**

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 5, 2008 at Moss Park.

National Night Out is designed to:

- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness.
- Generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime programs.
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships.
- Send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

Watch for additional information coming soon!

## **Dallas Delivers: From the desk of Dr. Elba Garcia**

*Note: The following originally appeared in Spring/Summer 2008 issue of Dallas Delivers.*

Greetings!

People make a city great, and the diverse people who work together in our Oak Cliff neighborhoods make District 1 truly special. Located within a few miles of downtown Dallas, Oak Cliff is filled with mature trees that provide shade and beauty and historic houses that have seen generations of families reared and raised. If walls could talk, these homes would tell the rich history of Dallas.

District 1's proximity to downtown and to the Trinity River puts us on the cusp of transformation. Already, north Oak Cliff is seeing significant economic development — both residential and retail. The Bishops

Arts District has evolved into a vibrant gathering place for Oak Cliff and all of Dallas. Businesses along Jefferson Boulevard are the mainstays of our community and continue to thrive. And the new Carnival store and development at Westmoreland and Illinois has everyone excited. More development is on the way and that means more jobs will be created.

I have worked hard to see our dream of building an animal adoption center — that will serve the area for generations to come — become a reality. The Dallas Animal Services and Adoption Center opened its doors last October. One important component is an education and training area to reach children and adults to teach them about responsible pet ownership, including spaying and neutering. It's the only way to see a meaningful drop in our

euthanasia rates and our animal cruelty statistics.

It's an exciting time to live in District 1 and I encourage you to keep working together as a community. The Southwest Patrol Division continues to work with us to decrease crime in the district, as they implement crime prevention programs and initiatives. Please continue to report any suspicious or illegal activity. Join your crime-watch group. Join a service organization and use 311 to access City services. Together we will continue to improve the safety and quality of life of our community.

Best regards,  
Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Elba Garcia



## Animal Adoption Center Now Open

Dallas' new Animal Adoption Center draws visitors from throughout North Texas to check out its thoughtful, innovative design, and many of those visitors can't help but go home with a new best friend.

Dallas Animal Shelter Commission chairman Skip Trimble says the center, located at 1818 N.

Westmoreland, was designed to be more visitor-friendly than the Oak Cliff and Forney Road shelters it replaced. Fortunately, it's also eco-friendly and animal-friendly as well.

"Our two previous shelters were quite old and well-used, and were not people-friendly," he says. "Everything about the new center is modern and inviting."

Some "green" features, like the extensive natural lighting and whimsical wind-powered turbine sculpture, add to the facility's aesthetic appeal. Others, like the recycled building material and wastewater treatment cells that allow the facility to reuse nearly 10,000 gallons of water per day, aren't as obvious.

Animal lovers appreciate the improvement in housed animals' quality of life. The new kennels are bigger, with improved drainage and a back area for dogs to allow for easy cleaning. With room for 785 animals,

the 52,000-square-foot facility has nearly double the combined capacity of the former shelters. A large conference room also serves as an education and training area.

The center is set up to facilitate adoption, with adoptable animals separated from lost-and-found pets. Visitors can play with adoptable animals in "get acquainted" rooms, and even bring their own pets to see how the animals will get along.

Though it's too early to determine the center's long-term impact on animal adoptions in the city, Dallas Animal Control division manager Willie McDaniel says he's seen an increase since the facility opened. "Part of that is because we've had a greater volume of people coming," he says. "Sometimes they come just to see the facility, and they end up adopting a pet."

To find out whether your lost pet has been impounded, call 214-671-0315. To adopt a pet, call 214-671-0249.

## Annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade Planned

Plan now to attend the 3rd Annual Kessler Plaza 4th of July Parade! This fun-filled event will be held in Moss Park on July 4, 2008.

Get in the patriotic spirit and join in the fun with your friends, neighbors, kids, and pooches! The parade will follow the sidewalk around the park. Neighbors are encouraged to dress up in patriotic clothing and to decorate their bicycles, tricycles, wagons,

scooters and strollers. And, not to be left out, there will also be a pooch parade featuring our favorite four-legged pets!

After the parade, marchers and spectators will gather for food, visiting, and fun. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy the parade. And fun is sure to abound!

Watch for additional information!

## Bahama Beach Water Park Opens

Bahama Beach Waterpark is the perfect place to cool off this summer. From Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day, Bahama Beach offers the best family waterpark value in the metroplex.

Conveniently located only ten minutes south of downtown Dallas, you can get away from it all without ever leaving town. The park has everything from 45 foot tall slides for the big kids and adults who are young at heart, to an interactive water playground with a 1000 gallon dumping bucket for the little ones. And for those who want to kick back and relax, grab a tube, wade into one of two zero depth entry beaches, and take a float down the lazy river. In addition, the park offers plenty of shade, reservable private cabanas, and a concession stand to satisfy all of your summertime cravings. You can also book your child's birthday party at Bahama Beach.

Bahama Beach is operated by the Dallas Park and Recreation Department has hired more than 75 new staff members to ensure a successful summer at Bahama Beach!

The park is located at 1895 Campfire Circle, on the west side of US 67 between Loop 12 W and Hampton Rd.

For more information visit <http://www.bahamabeachdallas.com/> or call Robin Steinshnider at (214) 671-0820.

## Yard of the Month

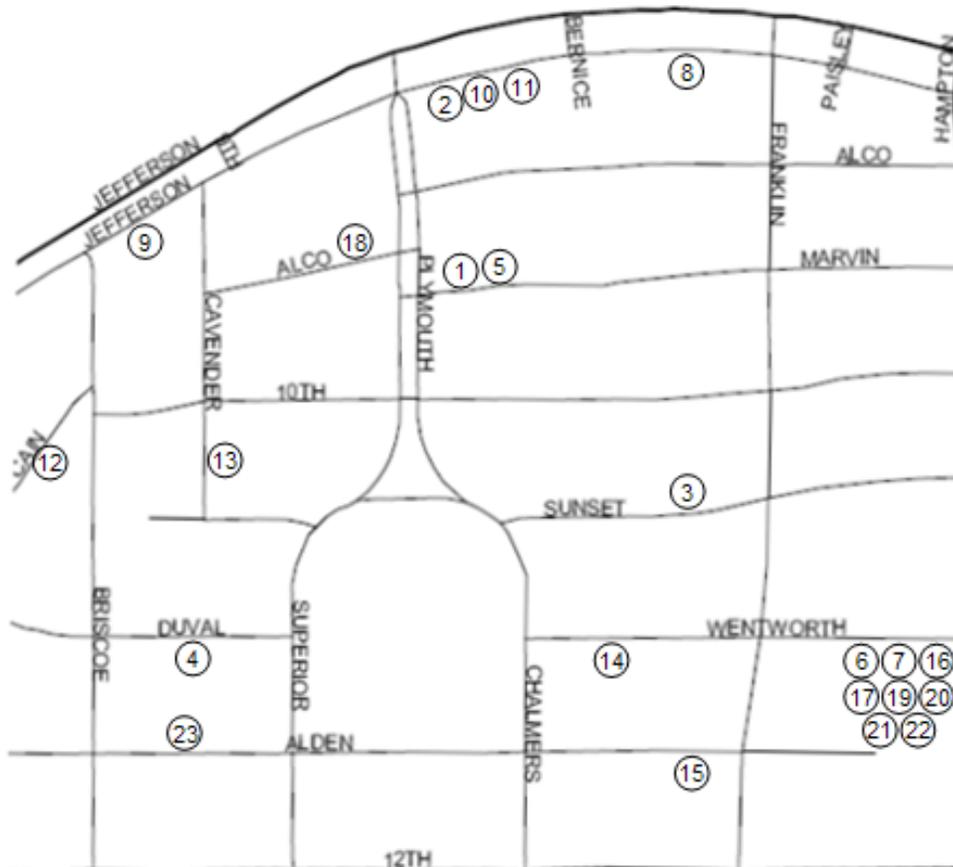
The Yard of the Month committee can use your help in selecting the Yard of the Month. Contact Kelly Garcia with your suggestions and nominations for Kessler Plaza Yard of the Month.

Kelly can be reached at (214) 395-8075 or [kgarcia@hksinc.com](mailto:kgarcia@hksinc.com).



## March/April Crimes Reported for Neighborhood

Crime	Date	Time	Address
1. Auto Theft	3/15/08	9:00 PM	26xx Marvin Ave.
2. Theft	3/18/08	11:30 PM	26xx W. Jefferson Blvd.
3. Vandalism	3/25/08	4:24 PM	25xx Sunset Ave.
4. Burglary	3/26/08	11:00 AM	27xx Duval Dr.
5. Theft	3/26/08	3:30 PM	26xx Marvin Ave.
6. Theft	3/26/08	5:20 PM	3xx S. Hampton Rd.
7. Theft	3/26/08	5:50 PM	3xx S. Hampton Rd.
8. Other Assault	3/27/08	12:05 PM	25xx W. Jefferson Blvd.
9. Vandalism	3/29/08	5:00 PM	29xx W. Jefferson Blvd.
10. Forgery	4/01/08	4:30 PM	26xx W. Jefferson Blvd.
11. Theft	4/05/08	1:45 PM	26xx W. Jefferson Blvd.
12. Theft	4/05/08	8:30 PM	28xx Cain Blvd.
13. Burglary	4/07/08	7:00 AM	1xx N. Cavender St.
14. Ag Assault	4/11/08	3:00 PM	25xx Wentworth St.
15. Burglary	4/12/08	3:00 PM	25xx Alden Ave.
16. Theft	4/12/08	4:35 PM	3xx S. Hampton Rd.
17. Theft	4/16/08	8:30 PM	3xx S. Hampton Rd.
18. Theft	4/18/08	9:00 PM	27xx Alco Ave.
19. Other Assault	4/22/08	4:20 PM	3xx S. Hampton Rd.
20. Theft	4/22/08	4:30 PM	3xx S. Hampton Rd.
21. Theft	4/23/08	2:27 PM	3xx S. Hampton Rd.
22. Theft	4/23/08	5:30 PM	3xx S. Hampton Rd.
23. Theft	4/28/08	10:15 PM	27xx Alden Ave.



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

## Water-Wise Garden Tour Planned

Dallas Water Utilities (DWU) invites you to attend its 13th Annual Water-Wise Garden Tour on Saturday, June 7 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. The self-guided, free tour showcases Water-Wise gardens throughout the City of Dallas and in surrounding cities.

Water-Wise gardening is also called "Xeriscape" and it is quality landscaping that conserves water and protects the environment using the following seven principles:

- Start with a plan
- Analyze and improve the soil
- Use practical turf areas
- Select appropriate plants
- Use efficient irrigation to make every drop count
- Use mulches to conserve water and prevent weed growth
- Maintain appropriately

There will be 26 sites to visit—feel free to choose your own route and visit some or all of the gardens. DWU partners with the Dallas Master Gardeners who will be hosting free, 15-minute microtalks on how to plant a Water-Wise garden. These microtalks will start at the top of each hour at the tour's three headquarter locations:

CENTRAL: City of Dallas - White Rock Pump Station - 2900 White

Rock Road - Dallas, TX 75214

NORTH: City of Addison - Les Lacs Linear Park - 3901 Beltway Drive - Addison, TX 75001

SOUTH: City of Duncanville - Armstrong Park - 300 E. Wheatland Road - Duncanville, TX 75116

In addition, there are several demonstration gardens available to visit, including:

- Joe Field Demonstration Garden - 2311 Joe Field Road - Dallas, TX 75229
- Robert E. Lee Elementary School - 2911 Delmar Avenue - Dallas, TX 75206
- Alger Park - "Dale's Garden" - 9530 Ash Creek Drive - Dallas, TX 75228
- Oak Cliff Founders Park - 1300 N. Zang Boulevard - Dallas, TX 75203
- Hope Community Garden - 1108 Cristler Avenue - Dallas, TX 75223

For additional information, visit <http://savedallaswater.com/waterwise.htm> or contact Noel Nielson at (214) 670-5378 or (214) 670-3155.

## Online System for Paying Citations

Paying traffic tickets is now a lot more convenient, thanks to the City of Dallas Court Services new e-Payment System.

"We want to give customers every possible opportunity to pay their tickets," said Director of Court and Detention Services Gloria Carter. "We're pleased to be able to offer this online option, which we believe will make paying traffic citations simpler and more convenient."

To pay tickets online, visit [www.dallascityhall.com](http://www.dallascityhall.com) and click "other tickets" in the left hand margin. After reading the "Terms and Conditions" page, click "Make Payment" at the bottom of the page and enter the information on the citation. The system will provide a total due and accept payment by credit card or personal/business check.

This 24 hour convenience is in addition to the 24 hour, seven days a week window operation for handling Class C Misdemeanors at the Lew Sterrett Justice Center Lobby, 111 W. Commerce.

## Time of Day Watering Restrictions now in Place

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

Water conservation is very important and every drop counts. Compliance with time of day watering restrictions will help Dallas conserve water.

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](http://www.savedallaswater.com) or call (214) 670-3155.



# Kessler Plaza Neighborhood Association

## President

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## Calendar of Events

**May 26** (Monday) – Memorial Day

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

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

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

**June 7** (Saturday) – KPNA Wine Tour benefiting the Kessler Plaza Neighborhood Association.

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

**June 12** (Thursday) – Curbside recycling pickup in Kessler Plaza

**June 26** (Thursday) – Curbside recycling pickup in Kessler Plaza

**July 4** (Friday) – 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Fourth of July Parade in Moss Park.  
Watch for additional details.

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

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

**July 24** (Thursday) – Curbside recycling pickup in Kessler Plaza

**August 5** (Tuesday) – National Night Out  
Watch for additional details.

**August 7** (Thursday) – Curbside recycling pickup

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

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

## 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)