



Kessler Plaza News

September 19, 2008
Volume 10, Issue 4

The Newsletter of the Kessler Plaza Neighborhood Association



THE LITTLE NEIGHBORHOOD
WITH THE BIG HEART.

Next Neighborhood Meeting:
Tuesday, September 30, 7 p.m.

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Elections Scheduled November 4 Voter turnout expected to be very heavy

Voters across the country return to the polls on Tuesday, November 4 for the presidential and general elections.

Based on primary voting in the spring, voter turnout is expected to be very heavy. You can avoid long lines and frustration on Election Day by voting early.

Early voting begins

October 20, 2008 and continues through October 31. Registered voters can vote at any early voting location in Dallas County. Voters who vote on Election Day must vote in the precinct where they are registered.

Following are the dates and times for early voting in Dallas County.

- October 20-24, 2008 (Monday thru Friday)

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

- October 25, 2008 (Saturday) 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- October 26, 2008 (Sunday) 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- October 27-October 31, 2007 (Monday thru Friday) 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

See **General Election**,
Page 3

National Night Out Planned for October 7

Plan now to attend the 25th Annual National Night Out (NNO), a unique crime/drug prevention event sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW). This neighborhood event is scheduled for October 7, 2008 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. 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; and
- Send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

Along with the traditional

display of outdoor lights and front porch vigils, cities, towns and neighborhoods celebrate NNO with a variety of events and activities such as block parties, cookouts, visits from local police, and youth programs.

This year Texas neighborhoods moved their NNO celebration from August to October. Kessler Plaza joins the festivities with a gathering

See **National Night Out**, Page 3

Next KPNA Meeting Scheduled for September.30

Plan now to attend the next meeting of the Kessler Plaza Neighborhood Association on Tuesday, September 30, 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, September 30, 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**

Dear Neighbors,

I hope that you have enjoyed another Texas summer, which is just about behind us. As the seasons pass, N. Oak Cliff continues to change and garner more attention from the rest of Dallas...which of course has it upsides and downsides. New businesses have been established and buildings renovated and revived.

What does that mean for those of us in Kessler Plaza? Well, in addition to new opportunities for places for us to spend our money, it means new neighbors and new opportunities. As I've said in the past, please be proactive and reach out and welcome our new neighbors. Next, take the opportunity to give back to the neighborhood association. That can mean a few things, from volunteering your time, a monetary donation or ideas on how to improve things in Kessler Plaza. The neighborhood association is made up of a great group of volunteers who are always looking for help where we can get it.

On the monetary note, after a long process, we have finally been granted non-profit (501c3) status, so any donation is tax deductible.

Finally, as a reminder, please be vigilant and look out for one another's safety. We are the best deterrent for crime in the neighborhood. If you see something that looks suspicious, please do not hesitate to call the police and report what you see. There have been cases this past year where a call to the police has prevented crime and resulted in arrests, so please take action if you see something.

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

Oktoberfest and Halloween Party

The 2nd annual Kessler Plaza Oktoberfest and Halloween party is planned for October 25, 2008! This event promises to be a fun-filled evening as neighbors and guests enjoy food, fun, and beer in Kessler Plaza homes. Although costumes are optional, there will be a prize for the best costume!

The event is a fundraiser for KPNA with proceeds to be used to complete neighborhood projects planned for the year. Tickets for the event are \$20 each and are available at the door. For more information, contact Kelly Garcia at kelkins_18@yahoo.com or (214) 395-8075

The event kicks off at 6:00 PM at the first home located at 2503 Marvin Ave. The party moves to 2618 Marvin Ave. at 7:15 PM and finally to 2430 Alco Ave. at 8:30 PM. Plan now to attend this fun-filled event!

Oak Cliff Conservation League Schedules Fall Home Tour

The Old Oak Cliff Conservation League (OCCCL) announces its 34th Annual Fall Tour of Homes October 11-12, 2008. The tour is Dallas' oldest and largest home tour.

Each year the tour features a sampling of the diverse architecture found throughout Oak Cliff. This year, 11 properties located in seven Oak Cliff neighborhoods have been selected for the tour, including East Kessler, Kessler Park, Kidd Springs, Kiestwood, West Kessler, Winnetka Heights, and Wynnewood.

Tickets are \$20.00 (\$15.00 for seniors) and are available on the day of the tour at all properties and at the home tour headquarters located in the pavilion at Stevens Park. Presale tickets are also available at: Alchemy

Salon, Beckley Brew House, Bishop Market, Crossroads Market, and Hunky's Hamburgers. Each property will be open from noon to 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 11 and Sunday, October 12.

This year's tour also includes a Home Expo that will feature a variety of home related services, vendors, and informational booths. The expo will be located at the Stevens Park Pavilion.

The 2007 Home Tour raised over \$13,000 for Oak Cliff neighborhoods with well over one thousand people viewing the showcased properties. To date the tour has raised over \$100,000 for projects such as neighborhood signage, pocket parks, and traffic abatement projects. In

years past, Kessler Plaza has received grants for various neighborhood projects.

Founded in September 1974, the League has been an advocate for Oak Cliff neighborhoods and the tour has played a major factor in showcasing Oak Cliff to the public. There are 29 member neighborhoods—including Kessler Plaza—that make up The League.

For additional information or to volunteer, sponsor, secure Expo booth rental, or advertise a business or organization, contact Darryl Baker at (214) 333-0645 or darryldallas@yahoo.com, visit www.ooccl.org, or leave a voicemail message at 214-989-3916.



Neighbors Unite to Help Beautify Jefferson Boulevard Median

Neighbors along Jefferson Boulevard have formed a group to work on beautifying the spine of Oak Cliff. The Jefferson Median Beautification Project will begin planting shade trees and native grasses this fall along the boulevard's barren mile-and-a-half median, starting where Jefferson intersects with Hampton Road. Neighborhood associations have been talking for some time about sprucing up the boulevard and now that talk is turning into action.

The primary goal of the new group is to help replenish the urban forest by planting shade trees the length of the median on Jefferson Boulevard, one of the widest medians in the city and also notably barren in most areas. To preserve traffic sightlines for safety, the trees will be planted in the center of the medians, away from the intersections. Native grasses and low shrubs will be planted closer to the intersections. This will create a bird habitat and serve as a visual transition from street level at the ends

of the medians to the tall trees in the center. The possibility of a walking trail running through the medians has also been discussed.

Trees are available free to the public for planting on city property, and the group plans to use this program to obtain the trees for the project. Volunteers are needed to help with unloading the trees and planting them. Groups are also needed to "adopt a block" or section of the median to mulch the trees and keep them watered for the first two summers as required by the program. Hopefully neighborhood associations or businesses in proximity to each section of the median will sign up to water the trees in that section.

The organization is in the initial stages of formation. Anyone interested in joining the planning committee should contact Van Johnson at OakCliffEarthDay@aol.com or visit www.jmbp.org.

Neighbors to Compete in Marathon

A team from Kessler Plaza will be racing in the 5-Person Relay of the Dallas White Rock Marathon Presented by NexBank. The event takes place on Saturday, December 14, 2008.

The 5-person relay course begins and ends in Victory Park at the American Airlines Center near downtown Dallas and runs to and around scenic White Rock Lake. The 26.2-mile certified course is mostly flat with some rolling hills. Along the way, runners pass through the wooded Turtle Creek area, prestigious Highland Park, around White Rock Lake, through beautiful Lakewood and down the Swiss Avenue historical district.

The Kessler Plaza team—named *Cliff Dwellers*—consists of Camilla Harris, Patty Herbel, Deanna Shelton, Jay Smith, and Nola Rae Smith.

Alternates are Daniel Beck and Mario Reyna.

The race again this year benefits Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children. TSRHC treats Texas children with orthopedic conditions such as scoliosis, hand disorders, hip disorders and limb length differences as well as certain related neurological disorders and learning disorders such as dyslexia at no charge to patient families. The marathon provides financial support for TSRHC through race registration and sponsorships, allowing the hospital to continue to care for thousands of Texas children.

Race-day events are capped at 17,000 participants with more than 100,000 spectators expected to line the streets of Dallas to cheer on the runners. For more information visit the official Dallas White Rock Marathon Web site at www.runtherock.com.

General Election

Continued from Page 1

Early voting locations near Kessler Plaza include:

- Cockrell Hill City Hall, 4125 W. Clarendon Dr.
- Martin Weiss Recreation Center, 1111 Martindell Ave.
- Oak Cliff Sub-Courthouse, 410 S. Beckley Ave.
- Dallas City Hall, 1500 Marilla St.
- West Dallas Multipurpose Center, 2828 Fish Trap Rd.

For citizens not yet registered to vote, October 6 is the last day to register in order to vote in the November election. Kessler Plaza residents voting on Election Day will vote at the Jefferson Blvd. Church of Christ. Polls will be open 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM. For additional information including sample ballots and location of all early voting locations, visit www.dalcoelections.org.

National Night Out

Continued from Page 1

at Moss Park featuring grilled hot dogs, soft drinks, and water, courtesy of Tom Thumb. In addition, representatives from the Southwest Police Division will be on hand as well as the K-9 unit, the Mounted Police, a fire truck, and an ambulance.

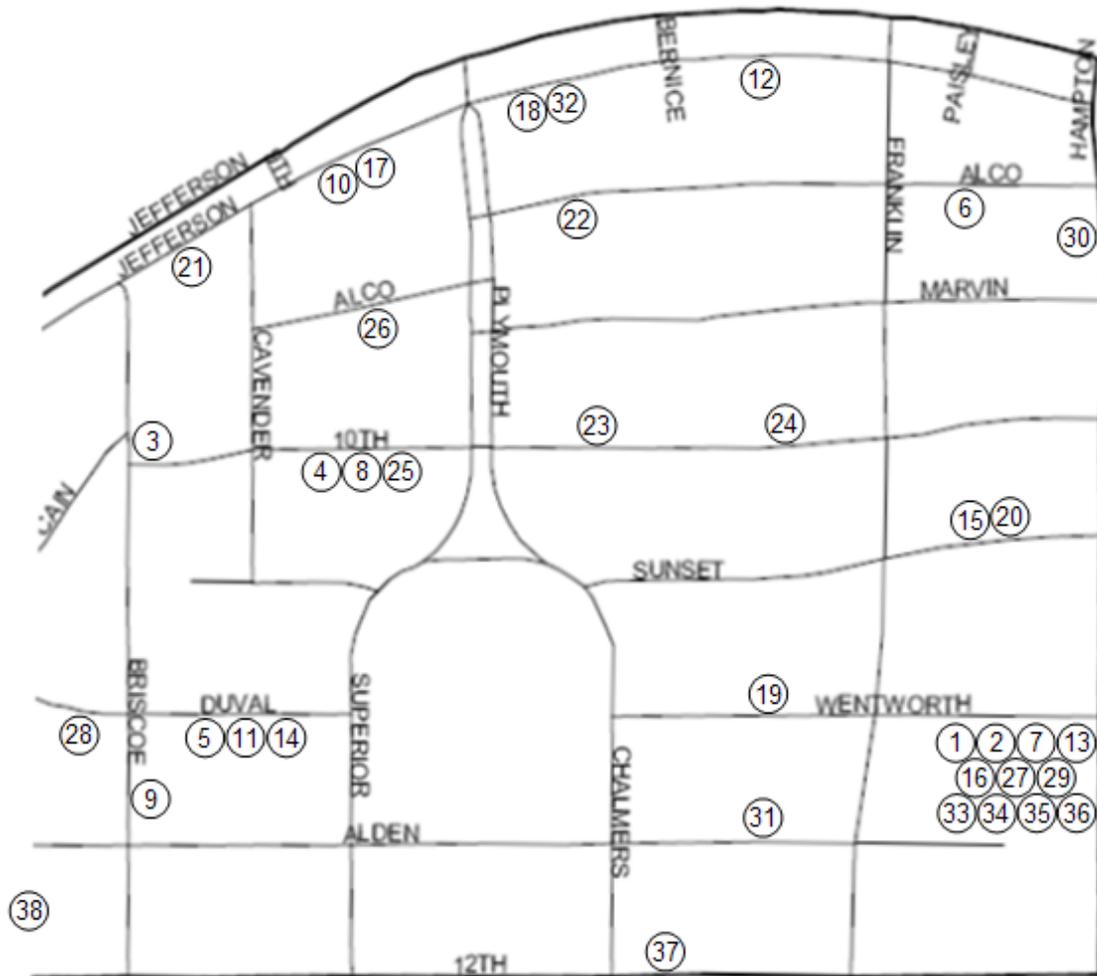
Last year's National Night Out campaign involved citizens, law enforcement agencies, civic groups, businesses, neighborhood organizations and local officials from 10,000 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities and military bases worldwide. In all, over 35 million people participated in NNO 2007.

NNO has proven to be an effective, inexpensive and enjoyable program to promote neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships in our fight for a safer nation. Plus, the benefits our community derives from NNO will most certainly extend well beyond the one night.



May through August Crimes Reported for Neighborhood

Crime	Date	Time	Crime	Date	Time
1. Theft	5/3/2008	5:25 PM	20. Theft	7/11/2008	11:00 AM
2. Theft	5/6/2008	3:35 PM	21. Other	7/15/2008	5:55 PM
3. Theft	5/9/2008	0:00 AM	22. Family	8/1/2008	6:00 PM
4. Vandalism	5/8/2008	0:10 AM	23. Theft	8/2/2008	0:00 AM
5. Theft	5/8/2008	2:50 AM	24. Other assault	8/4/2008	7:30 PM
6. Burglary	5/8/2008	6:45 PM	25. Theft	8/5/2008	7:00 PM
7. Theft	5/11/2008	3:13 PM	26. Theft	8/5/2008	11:00 PM
8. Runaway	5/25/2008	3:30 AM	27. Theft	8/9/2008	2:20 PM
9. Burglary	5/31/2008	5:00 AM	28. Burglary	8/7/2008	8:30 AM
10. Vandalism	6/3/2008	8:00 AM	29. Theft	8/11/2008	2:20 PM
11. Auto theft	6/3/2008	8:00 PM	30. Robbery	8/17/2008	1:30 AM
12. Robbery	6/9/2008	9:50 PM	31. Auto theft	8/18/2008	10:30 PM
13. Theft	6/9/2008	12:00 PM	32. Burglary	8/19/2008	8:30 AM
14. Auto theft	6/26/2008	3:30 PM	33. Robbery	8/21/2008	7:40 AM
15. Burglary	6/27/2008	8:00 AM	34. Theft	8/21/2008	1:38 PM
16. Theft	6/25/2008	3:30 PM	35. Embezzlement	8/23/2008	2:30 PM
17. Theft	7/2/2008	2:00 PM	36. Theft	8/25/2008	9:00 PM
18. Theft	7/2/2008	9:13 PM	37. Theft	8/28/2008	2:30 PM
19. Theft	7/9/2008	11:00 PM	38. Other	8/31/2008	5:24 PM



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

Water Main Construction Project Begins on Marvin Ave.

The City of Dallas is constructing a new water and wastewater main along Marvin Ave. from Plymouth Rd. to Hampton Rd. The work should be complete during the winter of 2008, subject to delays such as adverse weather conditions.

During the construction period, portions of Marvin Ave. will be closed for short periods of time while crews install the new water and wastewater mains. Crews will do everything possible to minimize the disruption to the neighborhood. However, during the work period, residents should not park in the affected areas of the street. Every effort will be made to insure access to existing driveways.

During the construction, crews will cut the existing paving and dig trenches to facilitate the line installation. The trenches are backfilled and compacted as the new mains are installed. Temporary asphalt paving is placed and maintained over all street cuts. At times, metal plates will be used over ongoing work to facilitate traffic movement. The temporary pavement is maintained by the contractor to ensure that streets are passable. Permanent paving repairs are made only after the mains have passed all the necessary tests.

Once the mains are completely installed, tests are conducted for

standards conformance. During this testing period little activity may be seen on the contractor's part and should not be cause for alarm. After the mains pass all tests, the new water mains and services are connected to the existing system and the old water mains are abandoned. At this point final paving will begin and any damaged landscaping is restored.

If you have any questions or need immediate assistance, please contact Eduardo Valerio, Project Manager at (214) 671-9561; Don Canyon, City of Dallas Construction Inspector at (214) 416-1515; or Gary Lewis, City of Dallas Construction Superintendent at (214) 878-7320.

State Fair of Texas Opens September 26 at Fair Park

It's Fair time! The 2008 State Fair of Texas opens September 26 at Fair Park, a 277-acre entertainment and recreation complex just east of downtown. The Fair's 24 days of family fun are rooted in annual favorites, including food, livestock shows, the nightly parade, cooking contests and football games.

The State Fair of Texas has selected "Ignite Your Senses!" as the theme for the 2008 season and organizers plan to entice and excite the senses with a menu of world-class entertainment, thrill rides, and mouth-watering edibles.

An octagon screen serves as centerpiece for the return of the reflecting pool's popular, evening multi-media performance. High tech visual effects, specialty lighting, fire and pyrotechnics are choreographed to music from every genre, and the Esplanade provides the perfect setting to stop, relax and enjoy the show.

Sensation-seekers will appreciate The Nock Family, top notch daredevils appearing in free shows daily on

Gateway Plaza. The troupe incorporates sway poles, motorcycle stunts and an acrobatic cage while showcasing their death-defying skills and keen agility.

In the Band Shell, animal trainer Steve Martin will host feathered performers from around the globe in a 20th anniversary celebration of his debut at the Fair. Since 1989, Martin has offered fairgoers a glimpse into the world of birds through an amazing free flight bird show.

With an eye towards the future, The Women's Museum and the State Fair of Texas will present The Smart House, demonstrating 21st century "green" technologies that simplify complex electronics and conserve energy.

Proving that dominoes aren't just for kids, the State Fair of Texas is bringing a couple of toppleologists to the African American Museum. These expert domino topplers will construct and topple a project each day during the 24 day run.

The Chevrolet Main Stage will feature top entertainers every weekend, plus live bands throughout the week. All concerts are free for fairgoers. Scheduled performers include Lady Antebellum, Rodney Atkins, Kellie Pickler, Kevin Fowler, and Jessica Simpson

This year's State Fair Musical is *The Color Purple*. Based on the classic Pulitzer Prize-winning novel by Alice Walker and the film by Steven Spielberg, the production tells the story of a woman's triumph over adversity. Performances will be offered daily (except Mondays), September 30 – October 19, in the Music Hall at Fair Park.

The 2008 State Fair of Texas runs September 16 - October 19. During the 24-day State Fair of Texas, the exhibit buildings are open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday - Monday. Buildings close at 9 p.m. each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Midway opening and closing times vary. Visit www.bigtex.com for additional information.



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Calendar of Events

September 26 (Friday) – Opening day of the 2008 State Fair of Texas
The fair runs September 26 – October 19 at Fair Park, located two miles east of downtown. Visit www.bigtex.com for additional information.

September 30 (Tuesday) – Kessler Plaza Neighborhood Association meeting
7:00 PM Jefferson Boulevard Church of Christ.

October 2 (Thursday) – Curbside recycling pickup in Kessler Plaza

October 6 (Monday) – Last day to register in order to vote in the November general election. Visit www.dalcoelections.org for additional information.

October 7 (Tuesday) – National Night Out, 7:00 PM at Moss Park

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

October 11-12 (Saturday - Sunday) – OOCCL Fall Tour of Homes
Visit www.ooccl.org for additional information.

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

October 16 (Thursday) – Curbside recycling pickup in Kessler Plaza

October 19 (Sunday) – Closing day of the 2008 State Fair of Texas
Visit www.bigtex.com for additional information.

October 20-31 – Early voting for the November General Election.
Visit www.dalcoelections.org for additional information.

October 25 (Saturday) – KPNA Oktoberfest and Halloween Party benefiting the Kessler Plaza Neighborhood Association. Event begins at 6:00 PM at the first house located at 2503 Marvin Ave.

October 30 (Thursday) – Curbside recycling pickup in Kessler Plaza

November 4 (Tuesday) – Election Day
Registered voters living in Kessler Plaza can vote at the Jefferson Boulevard Church of Christ. Visit www.dalcoelections.org for additional information.

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

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

November 13 (Thursday) – Curbside recycling pickup in Kessler Plaza

November 26 (Thursday) – Trash and curbside recycling pickup in Kessler Plaza
Note: Date change this week only due to Thanksgiving holiday.

November 27 (Thursday) – Thanksgiving Day

December 4 (Thursday) – First day brush and bulky trash may be placed curbside

December 8-12 – Brush and bulky trash pickup for Kessler Plaza

December 11 (Thursday) – Curbside recycling pickup in Kessler Plaza

December 14 (Sunday) – White Rock Marathon
Visit www.runtherock.com for additional information.

December 24 (Thursday) – Trash and curbside recycling pickup in Kessler Plaza
Note: Date change this week only due to Christmas holiday.

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