



Kessler Plaza News

The newsletter of the Kessler Plaza Neighborhood Association

Protect Your Home While on Vacation

It's summer vacation time again, and many residents will be enjoying vacations. Before leaving, take a few precautions that can help safeguard your home while you are away.

- Strive to make your home look as lived-in as possible while you're away.
- Let one of your neighbors know that you are going to be away so that they can keep an eye on your home for you. Give them a spare key to your home and an emergency telephone number to reach you.
- Arrange to have your mail and newspapers either stopped or picked up daily.
- Have your neighbor remove any flyers or advertisements that are left on your front door.
- Ask your neighbor to occasionally park in your driveway. If you are leaving a vehicle parked outside, have the neighbor move it periodically so it looks as though you are home.
- Use automatic timers to turn on a radio and lights at different intervals to hide the fact you aren't home.
- Turn down the ringer on the telephone. An unanswered telephone is a dead give-away. Don't indicate you are on vacation on your answering machine message.
- Leave your blinds like you normally would if you were home. Only close them all the way if that is what you would normally do.
- Have someone mow your yard or rake the leaves so your house looks lived-in.
- Be sure to close and lock the garage as well as any storage sheds, gates, etc.

Dallas Voters Return to Polls on May 8 to Decide DISD Representative

Dallas voters return to the polls May 8, 2010. On the ballot for Kessler Plaza residents is a race to determine our DISD school board representative.

Jerome Garza, who has represented DISD District 7 (which includes Kessler Plaza) since 2004, is not seeking reelection. Seeking to fill his position are: Eric Cowan, Olegario Estrada and Louis Trujillo.

Early voting begins on April 26 and runs through May 4. When voting early, you can vote at any **early voting location** in Dallas County. Following are the early voting times.

- April 26-30, 2010 (Monday through Friday)—8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
- May 1, 2010 (Saturday)—8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

- May 2, 2010 (Sunday)—1:00 PM - 6:00 PM
- May 3-4, 2010 (Monday through Tuesday)—7:00 AM - 7:00 PM

When voting on Election Day, voters must vote in the precinct where they are registered. Registered voters in Kessler Plaza will vote at the Jefferson Boulevard Church of Christ. Polls will be open 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Next Kessler Plaza Neighborhood Association Meeting on April 27, 2010

Plan now to attend the next meeting of the Kessler Plaza Neighborhood Association on Tuesday, April 27, 2010.

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, April 27, 2010 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.

Councilwoman Jasso Hosts City's First Annual Graffiti Wipeout Conference

Councilwoman Delia Jasso—who represents District 1, including Kessler Plaza—hosted the first annual Graffiti Wipeout on Saturday March 27, at Hector P. Garcia Middle School in Dallas. Over 200 parents, students, educators and neighborhood groups attended the conference that included workshop presentation, a panel discussion, and a youth art mural design contest.



The goal of the conference and city wide initiative is to provide parents and students a forum to discuss actions and consequences related to graffiti activity, safety, environmental and civic responsibility. Additionally, we want to encourage youth to redirect their creative energy from vandalism to valid artistic expression. A number of resources have been developed in support of conference benchmarks—including a

graffiti tip line, website, student anti-graffiti pledge, educational coloring book, a special hip hop music video titled "Take Pride" by local artist Mr. Norbey Luna.

Conference participants included Code Compliance, Dallas Police Department, Office of Cultural Affairs, City Attorney's office-Community Prosecution division and the Dallas County's Sheriff's Dept. For more information on this or other city initiatives, please call Councilwoman Jasso's office at (214) 670-4052.

You can also call the Graffiti Tip Line at (214) 670-TIPS (8477) or visit the graffiti Web site at www.dallasgraffitiwipeout.com. An anti-graffiti music video titled "Take Pride" is also available [here](#).



Annual Fourth of July Parade

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, 2010.

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!

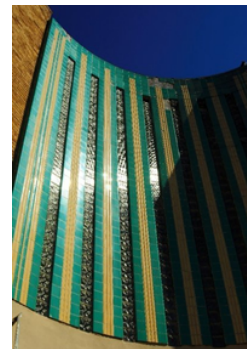
KPNA Extends Well Wishes for Wes Price

We have received word that Wes Price, long-time Pastor of the Jefferson Blvd. Church of Christ has been in the hospital for several weeks. Wes and the church have been great neighbors to Kessler Plaza through the years, allowing us to have our neighborhood meetings and elections at the church. We wish Brother Price a full recovery very soon.

The Kessler Now Open

Another exciting venue has opened in North Oak Cliff. The Kessler Theater is restored and open for business!

Located at 1230 West Davis Street, the venue is sure to please with many exciting events scheduled.



The theater was built in 1941, opened in 1942, and served as a theater from 1946 until the early 1950s. Edwin Cabaniss has researched the history of this old building and is

reinventing it as an Oak Cliff destination.

For more information, visit www.thekessler.org.

Wine Party Fundraiser



Save the date! The next wine party fundraiser benefitting the Kessler Plaza Neighborhood Association is scheduled for

Saturday, June 26, 2010. Watch for additional details soon!

Time of Day Watering Restrictions Now in Place for City of Dallas

City of Dallas Water Utilities (DWU) is reminding customers that time-of-day watering restrictions began April 1 and will continue through October 31. Following the conservation ordinance guidelines will avoid possible fines of \$250 to \$2,000 per incident. These mandatory time-of-day restrictions prohibit watering landscaping between the hours of 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. from April 1 through October 31 every year.

Dallas' watering restrictions do not mean your landscaping has to suffer. Most homeowners water their landscaping too much and too often – unknowingly producing shallow root systems that struggle to survive freezing temperatures, heat and drought. By watering deeply (four to six inches) and infrequently (only when landscaping begins to show signs of stress, such as discoloration, wilting, or when footprints remain visible after begin walked on), homeowners encourage their landscapes to develop deep, healthy roots that can endure Dallas summers, winter freezes, pests and disease.

“Given our climate and Dallas' growth, water conservation is a significant issue for our city,” said Carole Davis, DWU conservation program manager. “The time-of-day watering

restrictions demonstrate Dallas' commitment to conserving water and how seriously the City takes ensuring we have enough of this precious and vital natural resource for future generations.”

To avoid warnings, fines and a possible visit from a code inspector, DWU customers are reminded to adhere to the following guidelines:

- DO NOT water your yard between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. between April 1 and October 31. However, hand watering or the use of soaker hoses is permitted at any time.
- DO NOT water during any form of precipitation.
- DO NOT allow your sprinkler system to water driveways, sidewalks or streets.
- DO remember that automatic sprinkler system owners are required to have rain and freeze sensors installed.
- DO maintain your sprinkler system. Repair any broken, missing or misdirected sprinkler heads.

For additional information on time-of-day watering restrictions, Water-Wise tips and links to reporting water waste, visit www.savedallaswater.com.

Dallas Zoning Information On-line

The City of Dallas' Sustainable Development & Construction Department (formerly Development Services) has launched a new Web feature to make doing business with the City of Dallas more convenient. The interactive zoning map provides up-to-date access to zoning within the entire Dallas city limits.

Until now, zoning information was available online for Base Zoning and Specific Use Permits only and was updated only quarterly. Now, those involved with or interested in the land development process have a much more comprehensive tool which provides improved service, better access, and more accurate and timely information. The new larger, more legible map provides access to all aspects of zoning for every part of Dallas. Information will typically be updated within two weeks of zoning ordinances being passed by City Council. The new interactive map also provides better access to those not using Internet Explorer; it is fully functional with all major browsers except for Opera.

The Geographic Information System (GIS) Division of the Sustainable Development & Construction Department is available to answer questions regarding the new Web tool at (214) 670-3985.

Find the interactive zoning map on the City's Web site at <http://gis.dallascityhall.com/zoningweb/>.

Top 5 Ways to Save Energy



Unplug it! Appliances and equipment that are plugged in are still sucking power even though they're off (think cell phone chargers, toasters, lamps). Turn off power strips when not in use to reduce “Vampire Power”.



Install a **programmable thermostat** or in the summer, keep your thermostat at least 78 degrees while you are at home and at least 85 degrees when gone; in the winter, try 68 when you're home and 60 when gone.



Replace your **air filter** at least every 3 months. A blocked filter can cause higher energy costs and system damage.



Seal it up to avoid intruding air. Replace weather stripping. Seal windows seams. Add extra insulation in attics and in walls.



Turn your **hot water heater down** to 120 degrees. The water will still be hot but your energy bill will be much lower.

Free Irrigation System Check-ups Available

As a service to its customers, Dallas Water Utilities is conducting FREE automatic irrigation system check-ups.

The American Water Works Association (AWWA) has determined that homes with in-ground automatic irrigation systems use 35% more water than those without irrigation systems. And those households using automatic timers for their irrigation systems use 47% more than their neighbors with in-ground systems operating their systems manually.

Poor irrigation scheduling—watering too often and for too long—is the primary source of water waste associated with landscape irrigation. You may be using a lot more water than your lawn needs and if you are a Dallas Water Utilities customer, you can have a FREE irrigation system check-up by a certified landscape irrigation specialist. These check-ups have saved other customers hundreds of dollars per year on their water bill.

These check-ups can help improve the efficiency of your existing irrigation

Volunteer With OOCCL

Volunteers are needed to assist with projects for the [Old Oak Cliff Conservation League](#) (OOCCL), 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.

The OOCCL encourages neighborhood revitalization through financial and organizational support, including grants to assist with neighborhood beautification and quality of life projects. Kessler Plaza has benefited from these grants and will be applying for a grant again this year.

If you are interested in volunteering, contact Nola Rae Smith at (214) 330-0557 or nola49@gmail.com.

system by identifying:

- Programming errors
- Leaks in the system
- Broken or misaligned equipment
- Problems with pressure (too high or too low)
- Coverage problems

The Irrigation Specialists will also make recommendations such as:

- Programming suggestions
- Turf water requirements
- Possible equipment upgrades
- Repair and maintenance tips

The goal in Water Conservation is to help save water! All suggestions are subject to the homeowner's discretion, but each suggestion will save the homeowner money.

For more information or to schedule your automatic sprinkler system check-up, call (214) 670-3155 or use the [on-line sign-up form](#) and you will be contacted by a licensed irrigators.

Give Graffiti the Brush!

Painting of graffiti, also known as "tagging", is a crime. If you see someone tagging property, please call 9-1-1 immediately. If you see graffiti in your neighborhood, please report it to the Department of Code Compliance by calling the Graffiti Tip Line at (214) 670-TIPS (8477).

You can also report graffiti by either calling 3-1-1 or by submitting a service request online at www.dallascityhall.com/services/services.html



Kessler Plaza is now on Facebook! Click [here](#) to visit our Facebook page.

KesslerPlaza.com Wants You!

Stay up to day with the latest news and information by joining the Kessler Plaza Yahoo group—a moderated email communications system and calendar of neighborhood events .



Click [here](#) to enter your email address and join the group and begin receiving neighborhood email messages and notices.

Don't delay—join now! Visit www.kesslerplaza.com today and join the growing number of Kessler Plaza residents on-line.

Water-Wise Landscape Tour

Want to have a lush green landscape during the drought? Come see how on a free self-guided tour as the Dallas Water Utilities presents their annual xeriscape tour on Saturday, June 5, 2010.

Xeriscape is common sense, quality landscaping that conserves water, saves money and protects the environment. Visitors will see firsthand how using the principles of xeriscape in a landscape can transform outdoor living areas into stunning water-wise gardens.

The self-guided tour is free and showcases Water-Wise landscapes throughout Dallas and surrounding cities. You can choose your own route and visit as many of the landscapes as you like. Also, the Dallas County Master Gardeners offers free 15-minute Micro Talks on Water-Wise landscape topics at each of the 3 tour headquarters.

For additional information visit Dallas Water Utilities at www.savedallaswater.com.

Stray Animals and Reminder to All Pet Owners

If you have found an animal and have been unable to locate its owner, you can take the animal to the Dallas Animal Services facility/Lost & Found entrance at 1818 N. Westmoreland. The facility is operated Monday – Friday 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM, Saturday 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM, and Sunday 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM. Additionally, you may surrender the animal in the night-drop box located outside of the Lost and Found entrance anytime after normal business hours.



If you need to report a stray dog running loose in the neighborhood, call 3-1-1. Provide as much information as

possible including the location, date, time, and any specific details. An Animal Services Officer will investigate and respond to your request. Animals that are adoptable will be placed in our adoption program. For additional information, visit the [Dallas Animal Services Web site](#).

Also, remember it is a violation of Dallas City Code for a pet owner to allow their pet to defecate or poop on another person's property without cleaning or picking up after them. There have been recent reports of pet owners not cleaning up after their pets. Remember—scooping after your pet is not just the neighborly thing to do—it's the law!

Dispose of Home Chemical Waste at Home Chemical Collection Center

Dallas residents can safely dispose of home chemical waste at the Home Chemical Collection Center. Acceptable items that can be disposed of at the center include:

- Paint and home repair products
- Lawn and garden chemicals
- Pool chemicals

FAQs About Conducting Garage Sales in Dallas

Following are some frequently asked questions regarding garage sales in the City of Dallas. For additional information, visit the city's Web page regarding [garage sales](#).

How many garage sales can I have each year?

You may conduct only two garage sales per 12-month period.

How long can a garage sale last?

A garage sale can last no longer than three consecutive days.

Where must a garage sale occur?

A garage sale must occur inside a building or garage or on a patio.

What type of items can I sell at a garage sale?

You may sell any type of items except for items made, produce, or acquired solely for the purpose of resale at a garage sale.

Where may I place a garage sale sign?

You may place one sign on the property where the garage sale is taking place.

You **cannot** place a garage sale sign:

- On property other than where the garage sale is occurring.
- In the right-of-way or in the median.
- In a manner that interferes with pedestrian or vehicular traffic
- On any utility or telephone pole
- On any public property, public structure or public building

What size may the garage sale sign be?

The garage sale sign must not exceed 2 square feet.

What type of information must be on a garage sale sign?

A garage sale sign must contain the street address where the sale is occurring and the dates of the sale.

What happens if a person violates a garage sale ordinance?

The City may issue the person citations punishable by a fine of \$200-\$2000 for each day that the violation exists.

Who should I contact to report a violation of a garage sale ordinance?

You should call 3-1-1 and report the violation. The Department of Code Compliance will receive your complaint and take the necessary and appropriate measures to enforce the ordinance.

Do City Code Inspectors work on the weekend when many garage sale ordinance violations occur?

Yes. City Code Inspectors investigate violations 7 days a week.

- Household cleaners & polishes
- Old gasoline
- Automobile fluids & oil filters
- Fluorescent light tubes and CFLs
- Batteries of all kinds
- Personal computers and cell phones
- Monitors
- Printers and drives
- Circuit boards, cables and wiring
- Aerosol sprays

The Home Chemical Collection Center is located at [11234 Plano Road](#). For additional information—including hours of operation—visit the [Sanitation Services Web site](#) or call (214) 553-1765.

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Calendar of Events

April 26 – May 4 – Early voting for May 8 Election

Registered voters can vote early at any early voting location in Dallas County. Visit www.dalcoelections.org for additional information.

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

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

May 8 (Saturday) – General Election

Registered voters living in Kessler Plaza will vote at the Jefferson Boulevard Church of Christ. Polls are open 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM.

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

May 31 (Monday) – Memorial Day

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

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

June 22 (Tuesday) – Kessler Plaza Neighborhood Association meeting
7:00 PM Jefferson Boulevard Church of Christ.

June 26 (Saturday) – Kessler Plaza Wine Tasting Fundraiser
Watch for additional details coming soon!

July 4 (Sunday) – Independence Day

July 4 (Sunday) – Annual Kessler Plaza Fourth of July Parade in Moss Park

July 8 (Thursday) – First day brush and bulky trash may be placed curbside

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

August 24 (Tuesday) – Kessler Plaza Neighborhood Association meeting
7:00 PM Jefferson Boulevard Church of Christ.



THE LITTLE NEIGHBORHOOD
WITH THE BIG HEART.

Welcome New Neighbors to Kessler Plaza

As new neighbors move into the neighborhood, remember to do the neighborly thing by introducing yourself and welcoming them to the neighborhood.

You can also direct them to the [Kessler Plaza Web site](#) where they will find useful news, information, resources and links. Working together, we can remain “the little neighborhood with the big heart!”