

02.07



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# WEST KESSLER

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER

## February

4	SU	25
5	MO	26
6	TU	27
7	WE	28
8	TH	
9	FR	
10	SA	
11	18	
12	19	bulk trash week
13	20	neighborhood meeting
14	21	
15	22	
16	23	
17	24	

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS:

2/1	Richard Hart	Tenna Loma
2/4	Doug Spencer	Bison Trail
2/5	Tray LaCaze	Stevens Wood Ln
2/7	Kathy Sifferlen	N. Oak Cliff
2/7	Michael Green Jr.	N. Oak Cliff
2/9	Bonnie Roberds	Tenna Loma
2/12	Jack Shultz	Stevens Woods Ct
2/14	Doris Halabi	N. Oak Cliff
2/26	Harper Jones	Stevens Woods Ct
2/27	Nancy Smith	Hampton

neighborhood night out

SU

MO

TU

WE

TH

FR

SA

directory entry deadline

recycling days

## DON'T MISS OUR GENERAL NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING FEBRUARY 20

Come hear Dallas County Sheriff Lupe Valdez speak and answer your questions, plus get gardening tips from Susanne Vickers, Live Nursery Sales Specialist from our local Lowe's store.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

The neighborhood is seeking volunteers to host the Spring Salad Summer and the Summer Pool Party. If you are interested in either, please contact Laura Dorenbecker at ldorenbecker@crai.com

SAVE THE DATE - MARCH 3  
Wine Tasting benefiting the  
Twelve Hills Nature Center

Don't forget your dues and updated directory information

# GENERAL NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING FEBRUARY 20

We are pleased to have **Dallas County Sheriff Lupe Valdez** as our featured speaker for our next Neighborhood Meeting, 7:00 PM February 20 at the home of Allen Haskell and David Cooper. Sheriff Valdez lives in North Oak Cliff and was elected to the position in 2005 with 23 years experience in law enforcement.

**Susanne Vickers –Live Nursery Sales Specialist** from our Lowe's store will also speak. She will talk about gardening tips and various plants which do well in our landscaping. Everyone who attends will receive a special 10% off discount card from the nursery at Lowe's. What a great way to start off your planting season. Look forward to seeing everyone.

This meeting is open to everyone in West Kessler, so get your questions organized and come along. -- Coop.

## OAK CLIFF CONSERVATION LEAGUE

The League met on Monday, January 8, with a full agenda. The final total from the Home Tour is \$12,779 after expenses. Considering the weather on Sunday, this is very good. Planning for the Tour will begin in February in order to solicit sponsorships early in the year. If you are interested in participating in this event that promotes Oak Cliff as a great place to live, please contact Bonnie Roberds at 214-941-0210 or at [bonnieroberds@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bonnieroberds@sbcglobal.net).

Sheila Wilson with the City of Dallas People Helping People Program spoke about the need for volunteers to help low income elderly or disabled people with outside repairs to their homes. The League is considering a time frame to volunteer and will ask neighborhoods to participate to help those who cannot afford to make these repairs themselves. If you know of such a home, please contact Bonnie.

There was discussion regarding what will happen with the two Albertson's that have closed. One member began a letter writing campaign to various large stores like Kroger, Target, Petco and others to advise them of these vacancies and of the need in Oak Cliff for quality businesses. I'll have a list of those businesses next month so we can participate in this campaign.

Mayoral Elections are approaching - the League is partnering with Methodist Hospital and others to present a forum for candidates to discuss their goals for Dallas. One last item: Home Depot now carries a new product to deal with graffiti - it's called Graffiti Off. --- Bonnie Roberds

## BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

A New Year and new beginnings...Spring will be here soon. Some of your Spring bulbs are already growing and beginning to bloom. Remember to not cut off the foliage after the bloom is spent. This nourishes the bulb for next year's blooms. In February, we will generally stay just above freezing. Around mid month think about adding some pots of cool-season flowers to your doorstep. This will cheer up and brighten the neighborhood. Some plants which are able to withstand the cooler temperatures include pansies, viola, stock and sweet alyssum. Most of these plants will die back when the warmer weather hits.

Yard of the month will begin again starting in April. So start to think about your yard and how you can win the coveted award!!! The purpose of the beautification committee is to look at ways we can make our neighborhood a more beautiful and pleasing place to reside. If you are interested in helping out and would like to be a part of the committee contact Ron Forwark 214 948-7733 or [bdal9876@swbell.net](mailto:bdal9876@swbell.net) any and all help is welcome. Our current members include Ron Forwark and Sari Hartzuer. -- Ron Forwark

## IN MEMORIAM

### DR. ROBERT KENNEDY PORTMAN

Dr. Robert Kennedy Portman passed away December 31st at the age of 90. He was an original home owner on Stevens Wood Court. He was married to Mildred (Milly) during the time of his passing. Jennifer Barclay of 923 Stevens Wood Court says, "Dr. Portman always had a warm, personal greeting for us. From our first meeting, he characterized the charm of this neighborhood: genuine, open, caring, unpretentious. We regret not having more time with him, but we are grateful that we called him "neighbor" for 2 and a half years." Dr. Portman was born in Dallas and attended North Texas State University before graduating with honors from Baylor Medical School in 1941. He was well known for giving care and saving lives during a 43-year career in private practice in Oak Cliff. The family suggests contributions in Dr. Portman's honor be made to Methodist Health Systems Foundation, 1441 N. Beckley Avenue, Dallas, TX 75203. ---Laura Dorenbecker

### RALPH COX

Long before we had a neighborhood association, when red oaks and cedars still crowded the Stevens Woods Riding Stable, Ralph Cox knew every chicken coop and dog pen in our little neighborhood. He was a small child in the early 1930's when his parent built their frame house on N. Oak Cliff Blvd., and he made it his home off and on for much of the rest of his life. Wally and I knew Ralph as a storyteller and friend. He was astute, sociable and ferociously independent, equally ready to laugh or cuss as he zipped around on a super-sized electric scooter. He was a graduate of Sunset High School, a Navy veteran, and former associate of many colorful Dallas characters. Ralph passed away on the Sunday after Thanksgiving. Two sons, a daughter, a brother and sister survive him; and we'll all miss him.  
-- Mya Coursey

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Our hearts, thoughts and prayers are also with David Gonzalez at this time. His dear and precious mother Lola passed away Christmas morning just one month after the loss of David's father, her husband of 70 years on November 27. She was 90 and had been facing the challenges of Alzheimer's for the last several years. Charitable donations can be made in honor of Lola Gonzalez to the Alzheimer's Foundation of America, <http://www.alzfdn.org/> ---- David Cooper

## Neighborhood Night Out

Morelia Mexican Restaurant

2707 West Jefferson Blvd • Tuesday, February 13 at 7 pm

RSVP to Laura Dorenbecker at [ldorenbecker@crai.com](mailto:ldorenbecker@crai.com)