



# Ridgewood Park Neighborhood Association

www.ridgewoodpark.org

A Quarterly Newsletter for Residents of Ridgewood Park

July 2009

Volume 14 Issue 3

## RIDGEWOOD PARK NEIGHBORHOOD DIRECTORY

We are in the final stages of the publication of our neighborhood directory and we need help **from each neighbor**. Inserted in this very newsletter is a mock up of your block in the directory. Kathleen Lynch has worked tirelessly trying to get updated information from DCAD and White Pages.com for each address in the neighborhood *but we may not have correct information for everyone*.

SO, PLEASE, take a minute to look at your listing and see if it is correct.

Please proof the entry for **your name**, **address** and **phone number**

If corrections are needed to your entry, PLEASE CONTACT the RPNA at [admin@ridgewoodpark.org](mailto:admin@ridgewoodpark.org) or call Jodee Sedalnick 214-361-7507.

If we do not hear from you by **August 15th, 2009** the entry for your address will be printed **As Is**.

For those of you who do not wish to be listed in the directory, please contact me via the methods listed above and express your wish.

Thank you in advance your help and **prompt attention!!**

Dear Neighbors:

Hope all of you had a patriotic 4th of July and that many of you joined your neighbors at Axton Circle for our annual July 4th Children's parade and breakfast. I had to miss the event this year because I was celebrating in our nation's capital. I had a wonderful time in Washington DC, but I missed the Axton Circle gathering because it has always been my favorite RPNA event each year.

And although I had a nice time on this trip, my summer has had a very sad beginning. For those of you who know me or have read my newsletter articles, you know that I had a beautiful dog named Susie who was sweet and loving and who faithfully walked me through Ridgewood Park every day – hot, cold, cloudy or sunny. Well my sweet baby girl got sick and I had to put her down on June 2nd. It was the humane thing to do, but very sad. She came to live with me when she was 3 months old and was 14 years old when she died. I thought and wished she would live many more years, but no. I have been stopped by many of you on my walks now with a quizzical look and the tentative question, "Where is your dog?" because as you know, if you see me out and about, Susie was always by my side. I appreciate everyone's kind words and I hope that you all will miss seeing her sitting in my front yard, protecting Axton Lane. A special thank you to my neighbors Ann and Frank Butler, Susie's second family, for all the love they gave her throughout the years and for letting their dog Ripley come over every day to play.

To move to a more cheerful subject.... I want to invite everyone to our upcoming meeting *on a special date*, **Tuesday, August 4th**. We have an exciting guest, Michael Cleveland from Central Market. Michael is one of the "Foodies" at Central Market and he is going to share lots of ideas for preparing meals in this unbearable heat! Best news of all.... **He will have food and goodies to share with everyone**. If that doesn't get you to the meeting, I don't know what will! So mark your calendars and I will look forward to seeing everyone August 4th, 7pm.

Lastly, don't forget to check your listing for the upcoming RPNA directory. Each of you will have an insert in this newsletter containing your directory information. Make certain that your information is correct.

Have a wonderful rest of the summer.

— Jodee Sedalnick, RPNA President

## RPNA ANNUAL JULY 4TH PARADE

photos courtesy of neighbor, Donna McKay



RPNA neighborhood children at the Annual 4th of July Parade.

**Next RPNA Meeting:**

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 4TH AT 7:00 P.M.**

**RIDGEWOOD PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**GUEST SPEAKER:**

**CENTRAL MARKET "FOODIE", MICHAEL CLEVELAND**

*Summer Meal Ideas with Food for Everyone*

*REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED*



# ABOUT RPNA

The Ridgewood Park Neighborhood Association was formed in May 1996. The area includes approximately 400 homes and is bounded by Abrams, Fisher, Lovers and DART LRT.

### RPNA'S MISSION

- to promote and encourage the safety, improvement and beautification of the neighborhood, and
- to preserve the identity and integrity of the properties within the neighborhood

*Our vision is to be a neighborhood of choice for living in the City of Dallas.*

Dues are \$25.00 per household and for seniors, \$15.00 per household for one year beginning Jan 1 to Dec 31. Dues paid members are entitled to vote.

Newsletters are published quarterly. Articles are welcome and may be edited at the editor's discretion.

If you would like more information on RPNA please contact Jodee Sedalnick or write:

RPNA  
P.O. Box 823781  
Dallas, TX 75382  
admin@ridgewoodpark.org

### 2009 BOARD MEMBERS

- PRESIDENT: Jodee Sedalnick: 214-361-7507  
 VICE-PRESIDENT: Tim Coman: 214-361-6146  
 COMMUNICATIONS: – open –  
 NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Libby Nicholson: 214-696-2051  
 TREASURER: Stephen Bodwell: 214-890-9766  
 SECRETARY: Kathleen Lynch: 214-321-7221  
 AT LARGE MEMBERS:  
 Laura House: 214-265-1418  
 Kay Irvin Walo: 214-363-7021

### RPNA COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

- |                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Beautification       | – open position – |
| Code & Enforcement   | Ernest Brandt     |
| Crime Watch          | Laura House       |
| Newsletter Editor    | Libby Nicholson   |
| Play Group           | Kim Kelly         |
| Rush Creek Watershed | Cliff Spohr       |
| Traffic and Streets  | – open position – |
| Webmaster            | Kathleen Lynch    |
| Welcoming            | Kathleen Lynch    |

# Ridgewood Park Happenings

## Summer 2009

### We are losing our RPNA Newsletter Editor – Would you like to help?

I am sad to say that Libby Nicholson, our RPNA Newsletter Editor is moving out of the neighborhood. Libby has done a fantastic job with the newsletter each quarter. I realize these will be big shoes to fill – but I know we have a lot of talented people in Ridgewood Park. Are you interested? The articles are submitted to and you simply flow in the text and adjust the layout as you see fit. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Libby Nicholson or Jodee Sedalnick. Our phone numbers are on the inside page of this newsletter. Or e-mail us at admin@ridgewoodpark.com

### Celebrations:

I had a fun time on my neighborhood walk on May 30th. As I turned down Danbury, I watched Blake Wood learn to ride his first two-wheeler bicycle, a gift for his 6th birthday that very day. His dad Frank was showing him how to ride, and he was doing a terrific job. I have also learned from Blake's mom Amy that she and Frank welcomed a new baby girl into the family on May 14th – Mary Louise Wood. Now the Woods have two boys and a baby girl! Congratulations to all.

*Happy birthday to David Alsup* who turned the big 5-0 on May 31ST - and he doesn't look a day over 35, seriously!. For those of you who do not know David, he is one of our brave fire fighters at Station #7 in North Dallas.

### One of RPNAs original homeowners has passed away.

Sidney Smith, formerly of 6459 Axton Lane passed away on Saturday, July 11th of heart failure. Funeral services were held at the Wildwood Chapel at Restland Funeral Home & Cemetery on Monday, July 20. Our condolences go out to his daughter and son-in-law Caroline and Scott Seifert.

### Be careful where you park at the Spraypark!

The Dallas Parking Enforcement division and the Dallas Northeast Police have stepped up enforcement of the Resident Only Parking on the odd side of the 6700 block of Trammel Dr. as well as the "No Parking" zone on both sides of that block. The officers are ticketing and having cars towed at the owner's expense. Folks driving to the sprayground are urged to park in the large parking lot at the Ridgewood

Community Center – it is the safest place to park given the considerable traffic on Trammel Drive.

### Neighborhood Directory Advertisements

Would you like to advertise your business locally? Put an ad in the Ridgewood Park Neighborhood directory. For a donation of \$35.00\*, you can place an add up to 6 lines: 1 5/16th x 3 1/4". Advertise your business or recognize a loved one. **Be creative! Here is an opportunity to reach 400 households for a nominal fee!** Need more space for your ad? That can be arranged. Contact Kathleen Lynch for pricing. 214-321-7221.

### John Johnson Realtors

1234 Prospect  
Dallas, Texas  
214-000-0000  
*Serving the Lakewood Area for 40 years!*  
www.johnsonrealtor.com

*\*Proceeds from the ads will benefit the Axton Circle Beautification fund.*

### Are you a new resident to Ridgewood Park? Have you received your welcome packet?

RPNA has a Welcoming Committee whose members deliver welcome packets to all new residents. If we missed you, contact Kathleen Lynch (214-321-7221) and we will make sure you get your packet.

In addition, please make sure we have your correct information for the upcoming RPNA neighborhood directory. You may send RPNA your contact information via our e-mail address: admin@ridgewoodpark.org. Please include your name(s), street address and phone number. The directory will be distributed only to homes in Ridgewood Park, i.e., *your neighbors*.

### Are you part of the RPNA e-mail routing? I STRONGLY ENCOURAGE YOU TO SEND US YOUR ADDRESS!

If you would like to be on RPNA's e-mail routing please e-mail us your info via admin@ridgewoodpark.org Receive e-mail reminders about bulky trash week, recycle trash days and other general e-mail announcements. Much of our communication to neighbors is now done via e-mail – particularly between newsletters. **BE IN THE KNOW**; send us your e-mail address!

# WATER-WISE WINNERS IN RIDGEWOOD PARK



BEFORE



AFTER

One of the homes in our neighborhood was celebrated in this year's City of Dallas 14th Annual Water-Wise Tour of Homes. Melanie Grimes and Mychele Lord's home at 6715 Trammel Dr. was honored as one of only five homes selected as this year's winners and received the highest score among the winners. Melanie and Mychele went through an extensive application process that focuses on the seven basic principles of water-wise gardening. Winners of the city-sponsored water-wise contest were chosen by a panel of judges including members of the Dallas City Water Department, *Dallas Morning News* garden editor, city of Dallas Stormwater Management, a landscape designer and a Dallas County master gardener.

For Melanie and Mychele creating their garden has been an ongoing process since 2003. They made the decision several years ago to expand their living space outside the four walls of their home. They both loved the idea of living in the yard as well as the home and wanted to create "rooms" in the outdoors. With the help of landscape architect Rusty Allen of Salvia Garden Design they began to recreate their backyard. Rusty utilized some of the principles of Feng Shui to develop the flow of the yard. Using primarily native and adapted plants and the principles of water-wise gardening they steadily implemented the plan over the ensuing years. Another aspect of the garden plan was to create a "wildscape" to attract birds, butterflies and wildlife.

As part of the garden design, Mychele and Melanie wanted to maximize rain harvesting as a natural source of water for the yard. Over the years the ladies have installed six 300-gallon rain tanks and two 80-gallon rain barrels. The large tanks fill completely with anywhere from 1/2" to 3" of rainfall. The tanks are connected to the home's gutter system to capture rainwater from the roof. This water is used throughout the garden to hand water the potted plants and vegetable garden. When full, the tanks provide enough water for about a month. For the rare times when the tanks run dry, a drip irrigation system connected to

the home's water main provides supplemental irrigation, in addition to a rotary head sprinkler system. Since the ladies began using this water conservation system in the front and back yards, they have seen significant savings. Melanie tells me "Our water savings as of September 2008 has decreased 26 percent. With all of the water-wise changes we've made in our entire yard, we are using 48 to 60 percent less water than in 2005 and 2006."

Plans to extend the native landscaping to the front yard began about three years ago, again with the help of Rusty Allen. When they began, the front yard was open to the street and was entirely landscaped with St. Augustine grass. The before and after pictures of the yard are quite dramatic – to say the least! The front yard is surrounded by a low-lying fence and uses expanded metal that will oxidize naturally, eventually softening its color. Not only does this create an open, rustic design for this outdoor room, but it allows their dogs, Shiner and Happy to roam the front yard. One-third of the front yard is completely xeriscaped; this includes the area along the front of the yard next to the street as well as the area lining the fence inside the yard. An extensive use of buffalo grass there prevents any need for mowing the area. In addition to the front yard, the ladies added one final room to their outdoor space by capturing an unused area on the side of their yard where they now cultivate vegetables in raised beds. Raising a retaining wall and leveling the steeply graded ground created the space. "The new area forms the foundation of an all-natural food-growing paradise."

**Salvia Garden Design** Rusty E. Allen 214-563-2859

Installation:

**Country Life Landscaping** 214-368-6955.

[www.countrylife-usa.com](http://www.countrylife-usa.com)

**The Rain Well** rain tanks [www.therainwell.com](http://www.therainwell.com)

3201 E. Pioneer Parkway, Arlington 817-676-4440.

## RPNA CRIME WATCH

DATE	TYPE OF OFFENSE	LOCATION
4/19/2009	BMV	6400 GLENNOX
4/22/09	THEFT	6700 TRAMMEL
5/12/09	BURGLARY-RESIDENCE	6400 DANBURY

5/25/09	U U M V	6400 FISHER
5/30/09	AUTO ACCESSORY THEFT	6500 AXTON
6/23/09	BMV	5000 REXTON
7/14/09	BMV	6500 DANBURY

# WHAT IS WATER-WISE LANDSCAPING?

Water-Wise landscaping, also known as “Xeriscape Gardening”, is quality landscaping that can reduce landscape water use by as much as 50%. Using seven common-sense principles, you can create a **lush, beautiful landscape that saves time, money and energy and prevents water pollution and water waste.** Water-Wise landscaping consists of the following seven principles.

**1. Start with a plan.** Consider soil type, drainage, water availability, and views. Develop a plan that can be installed in phases. Design your garden according to the amount of water each section needs and how it will be watered: hand watered, frequent water, occasional or natural rainfall.

**2. Analyze and improve the soil.** Analyze your soil with help from your local nursery or County Extension Office. Add organic matter such as compost to improve drainage, moisture penetration and the soil’s ability to hold water.

**3. Use practical turf areas.** Grass usually needs more water than any other part of the landscape. Ask yourself how am I using this part of the yard – is grass the best choice? Consider alternatives like ground covers, shrubs, deck or patio.

**4. Select appropriate plants.** As much as possible, use native or drought-tolerant plants. There are hundreds of beautiful plants that naturally thrive on the amount of rainfall we receive in North Texas, so they rarely need additional water once they are established. But if your favorite plant is a water guzzler, go ahead and use it. Just place it with other water-loving plants.

**5. Water efficiently to make every drop count.** Watch for signs that plants need water, and water only when it’s necessary. When you do water, water deeply. This saves water, helps plants develop healthier root systems and make them more likely to survive hot summers and cold winters. Water early in the morning; ; the sun is low and the wind is calmer. Remember that most grasses only need one inch of water every 7-10 days. Most other plants need even

less, especially if they are native and drought-tolerant. Use watering devices that throw large drops of water close to the ground Soaker hoses are inexpensive and ideal for planting beds. Drip irrigation applies water slowly to the soil directly surrounding plant roots.

**6. Use organic mulches.** Mulches conserve water and slow weed growth. Some common organic mulch include composted leaves, shredded cedar and shredded landscape clippings.

**7. Maintain properly.** Water-Wise landscapes need less maintenance than traditional landscapes but remember, low maintenance does not equal no maintenance. Properly maintained yards will be better prepared to withstand drought, freezing and pest problems. Remove weeds so they don’t compete with other plants for water and fertilize in moderation if necessary. Excessive fertilizer increases plants’ water needs and can be washed away by rain, polluting our rivers and streams. Raise the height of the lawn mower so grass blades shade the roots. Allow grass clippings to remain on the lawn as a natural fertilizer.

To learn about native and adapted drought-tolerant plants that do well in the North Texas area you can seek free advice from area master gardeners at the **Texas Cooperative Extension** and visit the Dallas Water Utilities web site at <http://www.savedallaswater.com/waterwise.htm>.

In addition, watch for the Water-Wise Landscape seminars offered free every spring and fall and learn how to use native and adapted plants and cut down on big water bills.

## Darleen and Tim Ingraham at 6456 Glennox: Congratulations on June’s Yard of the Month.

The Ingraham’s have been in their home since the fall of 2008 and have created lovely front and back yard gardens. Along with Darlene and Tim, family members Matthew and Amber helped with the design and implementation of all the plants in the front, back and side yards. Some of the elements of the front yard were kept from the original landscaping and the Ingraham’s added a Japanese maple tree, two oak trees and a beautiful weeping yaupon. In addition, the beds include lirope, salvia, gaura, sedum, cone flowers, begonias and Indian hawthorn shrubs. A beautiful pot near the front door features a foxtail asparagus fern. The beds are now outlined with lovely stonework. The side yard along the driveway features attractive ornamental grasses of bronze and blue-gray colorations interspersed with moss covered boulders. The fence has been removed to open up the yard.

Not only is the front yard lovely, the back yard is a beautiful oasis. This fall the Ingrahams reconfigured the yard bringing in a lot of stonework and created paths using decomposed granite. The beds in back feature a weeping cherry tree showing white blooms in the spring, Japanese maples, redbud trees, sedum and other water-wise plants. The “secret garden” along the side of the home has fragrant gardenia bushes, a delicate Orangeola Japanese maples and staghorn fern along the fence. Darlene has cleverly painted the backyard swing a bright lime green to match the foxtail asparagus fern on the deck; and Tim has even taken the project into the alley, lining it with decomposed granite and stepping stones! Beautiful job folks....

**And congratulations also go out to Deborah Selzer of 6540 Danbury Lane, our May yard of the month winner.** Deborah has done a wonderful job with her front yard since she moved into her home. We hope to have pictures and information about Deborah’s gardens on the RPNA website soon. So stay tuned.



BEFORE



AFTER