



# Ridgewood Park Neighborhood Association

www.ridgewoodpark.org

A Quarterly Newsletter for Residents of Ridgewood Park

October 2008

Volume 13 Issue 4

## RPNA'S SECOND ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 25TH AT 11:00AM  
AT AXTON CIRCLE

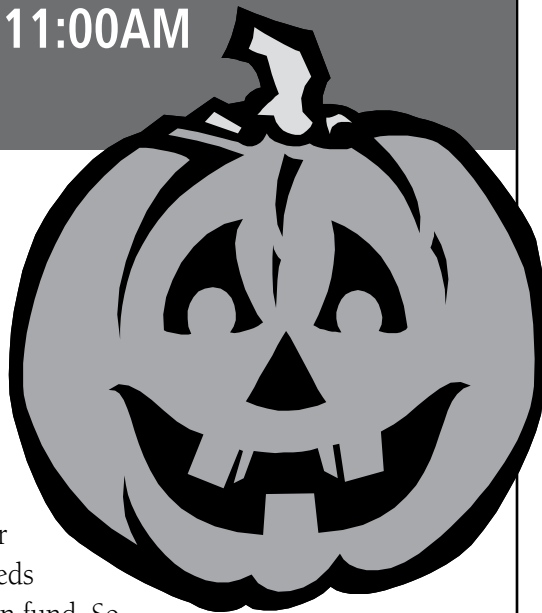
Kids wear our Halloween costumes and come to the circle for a fun time. There will be games, pumpkin painting and a lunch of grilled hotdogs, chips and a drink. AND, we will provide a surprise grab bag for each child that attends!

There will be a \$5.00 charge for the hot dog lunch with the proceeds benefiting the RPNA beautification fund. So, come hungry and be generous.

If you would like to bring something to share, how about a DESSERT?

Please be sure to RSVP so that we have enough FOOD and GRAB BAGS for everyone! RSVP at [admin@ridgewoodpark.org](mailto:admin@ridgewoodpark.org) or if you do not have access to a computer, call 214-361-7507. Let us know the number of adults and children.

**SEE YOU ON SATURDAY OCTOBER 25TH!**



Dear Neighbors:

I would like to spend a minute and highlight our meeting this Tuesday. With the overwhelming focus of the presidential election, we might have lost sight of the other issues on the ballot. One of these issues is the Bond Program for Parkland Hospital which is the topic of discussion for our meeting on Tuesday October 21st. These are tough economic times and I think everyone can agree that if we are asked to spend monies for a new Parkland Hospital, we want to understand where our tax dollars are going.

Our speaker will be Cobie Russell. Ms. Russell served as a member of the "Blue Ribbon Master Capital Advisory Committee," the community-wide panel appointed by the Dallas County Commissioners who spent two years researching and analyzing the various options for Parkland. She will be an excellent source of information for us.

Here are a few highlights of the bond package:

The 2008 Hospital District Bond Package is the first time in 28 years that Dallas County citizens will vote on a Parkland Hospital bond program. This program will fund a new 862-bed adult inpatient hospital, including a Level 1 Trauma Center and Burn Center, outpatient center, office buildings and parking. The new hospital will replace the existing 54-year-old facility, which is outdated and cramped. Unfortunately, renovating is not an option because it would result in a 40% loss of beds and cost more than the proposed new hospital.

Parkland is a certified Level 1 Trauma center, handling approximately 50% of the County's trauma cases. Additionally, Parkland's Burn Center - the second-largest civilian center - is considered one of our nation's finest. All of this said, we know that there are controversial issues that Parkland and we as citizens face regarding the rising cost of health care and caring for the uninsured. With such issues to consider, I ask that each of you make time to attend this Tuesday's meeting and become informed about what you are being asked to vote on November 4th.

And a reminder, Early voting begins Monday, October 21, and ends Friday, October 31, 2008. For more information and early voting locations, go to [www.dalcoelections.org](http://www.dalcoelections.org).

See you all on Tuesday!

—Jodee Sedalnick, RPNA President

**Next RPNA Meeting**

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21ST AT 7:00 P.M.**

**RIDGEWOOD PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**GUEST SPEAKER: COBIE RUSSELL**  
**PARKLAND HOSPITAL BOND PROGRAM**

*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

### 2008 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: 214-696-2258

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

## Fall 2008

### OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS GO OUT TO.....

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Nan Watson, our neighbor on Santa Anita. Nan passed away on September 18th at the age of 77 and will be remembered fondly by many of us in Ridgewood Park. She and her husband George moved into their home in 1996 and when George passed away in August of 2006, they had been married for 52 years. In the early part of her married life, Nan was a devoted stay at home wife and mother of a son, Kevin and two daughters, Cathy and Kelly. Then after her husband retired, Nan founded and presided over a very successful Executive Search firm for the next 15 years before retiring and moving with her husband to Ridgewood Park. Nan's daughter Kelly tells me that her mother had a passion for gardening and landscaping and that is what led Nan and George to move from their condominium to their home on Santa Anita. According to Kelly, what was once a bare backyard, without trees or shrubs, became a beautiful oasis with Nan's skilled touch.

Rose Alsup a neighbor and friend of Nan's wanted to share her remembrances with us. "I am very blessed to have spent time getting to know Nan over the last two years. I don't even recall why I started visiting her but I know that God put her in my life for a reason. She was a wise lady and though we came from different backgrounds and were from different generations, we enjoyed each other's company and could spend hours talking. Nan liked to talk about any subject as she was very knowledgeable and she was also a great listener. She was extremely interested in my upbringing, my career, and my life. I learned lots from her and I think she also learned some things from me. We shared a love for gardening, tea, relationships, and God. I will always remember our lunch time visits over enchiladas, chips and hot sauce from La Calle Doce. Even on the days when she wasn't feeling well, she always enjoyed a good mexican meal!" Please keep Mrs. Watson family in mind as they make their way through this difficult time.

### NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS AND NOTES

Sidney Smith, 89, a Dallas native, graduate of SMU, and original homeowner on Axton Lane since 1953, will be moving to assisted living on October 5th. Caroline (Smith) Seifert, Mr. Smith's daughter, was raised in Ridgewood Park and is now helping her father with this transition. We wish the best to Sidney.

Birthday wishes go out the Taylor and Daniel Killian's son and daughter! Daniel Gaddis Killian, II celebrated his very first birthday on September 27th and his big sister Lainey Gayle celebrated her 4th birthday on October 1st.

We have another first birthday to celebrate. Peyton Nicholson turns 1 on November 8th. He is the son of our talented newsletter editor, Libby Nicholson and her husband, Todd.

Happy Birthday to Kathleen Lynch our RPNA Secretary and former President.

Kathleen is PASSIONATE about RPNA and wants you to know:

**Stay informed about what is happening in Ridgewood Park! Send your E-mail address to admin@ridgewoodpark.org, and receive timely neighborhood news, bulky trash alerts, etc. Your e-mail address is safe with us and will not be shared with any other organization.**

### We haven't given up on the RPNA neighborhood directory....

We are continuing to work on the directory and have made the decision to modify our ideal of the directory. Our hope was to provide a mini profile of each resident; however the response to our pleas for information was somewhat limited. In our modified version, we will list **each homeowner's name, address and phone number**. For those of you who did not return your directory form, we have used the DCAD and WhitePages.com websites to gather basic information for the directory. *If you do not wish to have your information published* in the directory, please contact us via the website at admin@ridgewoodpark.org and we will omit your name and phone number.

The directory will list households by block so that you may easily contact your closest neighbors. It will be **free of charge** to each household in Ridgewood Park and will not be  
(continued on page 3)

# RECYCLE AND BULKY TRASH SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 27, Monday - RECYCLING COLLECTION DAY BULKY TRASH PICKUP DAY	DECEMBER 22, Monday - RECYCLING COLLECTION DAY BULKY TRASH PICKUP DAY
NOVEMBER 10, Monday - RECYCLING COLLECTION DAY	JANUARY 5, Monday - RECYCLING COLLECTION DAY
NOVEMBER 24, Monday - RECYCLING COLLECTION DAY BULKY TRASH PICKUP DAY	JANUARY 19, Monday - RECYCLING COLLECTION DAY
DECEMBER 8, Monday - RECYCLING COLLECTION DAY	JANUARY 26, Monday - BULKY TRASH PICKUP DAY

## *Ridgewood Park Happenings ...continued from page 2*

published for use outside our neighborhood. Our former neighbor and great supporter, Amy Timmerman has agreed to sponsor the cost of the directory. We will offer **space** in the directory **for advertising**; monies from these ads will benefit the neighborhood association. If you would like to place an ad in the directory, please contact us via the RPNA website and we will get back to you with details. We hope to publish in early 2009.

### And speaking about ongoing projects.....

**Yes, we are still accepting orders for the engraved bricks** to line the path at Axton Circle! If you would like to honor a loved one, share a favorite saying, brag on a family member or pet what better way than to buy a brick engraved with your recognition. Just use the enclosed form! Your message can be up to 3 lines of 14 letters, numbers or spaces per line, and the cost of each brick is \$50.00. Need inspiration for your brick?; Take a walk through the circle and GET INSPIRED! Monies from this fund raiser will benefit the RPNA Beautification Fund. Get your order in soon.... we finalize orders by years end.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR YARD OF THE MONTH WINNERS!

The Allen Family of 5010 Rexton was selected as the outstanding yard for the month of July. Miki and Peter Snell of 6452 Dunstan Ln. were hard at work this spring landscaping their front yard and they are our winner for August. And just down the street we have our September yard of the month, at 6414 Highgate; congratulations to Hugh and Mandy Gifford! Finally, we congratulate Sandy and Carl Vance whose very "spirited" yard is honored for October. As you walk through the neighborhood, I think you will appreciate what a great job they have done! To see pictures of these beautiful yards and read our winners stories, check our website at [ridgewoodpark.org](http://ridgewoodpark.org) and click on Yard of the Month.

**Another Ridgewood Park Neighbor featured in the Dallas Morning News**  
Our neighbors Melanie Grimes and Mychele Lord were featured in the

Home and Garden section of the DMN this August. The story highlighted their recent landscaping effort of converting the side yard into a garden space to create an all-natural food-growing paradise. Check the RPNA website soon for a link to the DMN article

Our neighbor James Taylor wants everyone to know about the Friends of the Skillman-Southwestern Library. This group helps the library purchase items and pay for programs; AND members will have first look at upcoming book sales along with advanced notice of speakers. The Friends Group is a nonprofit organization and contributions are tax deductible. Anyone interested in joining group can fill out a membership form at the library. Membership fees vary and are listed on the form. Thank you for your help and interest." -- James Taylor

And our neighbor Jada Scruggs on Danbury Lane would like to offer her services for family photographs for Christmas cards. If interested, you may contact Jada at 214-741-7809

Do you have an announcement for the newsletter? Please contact us via phone or via the RPNA website with your announcement and we will make sure it gets in the next newsletter.

### A PLEA FROM YOUR RPNA PRESIDENT!

If you appreciate all that RPNA does for you then consider offering some of your time and VOLUNTEER. How about 1-2 hours a month? We have positions available on the RPNA board for chair of Communications and volunteer positions for the beautification committee and welcoming committee.

How about volunteering to plant flowers at Axton Circle twice a year, or delivering welcome packets to your neighbors? How about volunteering at our social events, like the Fall Festival this month?

If you want to help and your time is limited; how about a donation to keep the association running smoothly? Contact any of the board members with questions on how to help! **Giving of yourself and your service can extend your life! PLEASE VOLUNTEER!**

## RPNA CRIME WATCH

DATE OF OFFENSE	TYPE OF OFFENSE	OFFENSE LOCATION
8/19/2008	THEFT AUTO ACCESSORY	6500 DANBURY
8/21/08	AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	6400 TRAMMEL
8/24/08	BMV	6400 FISHER
8/20/08	BURGLARY	6600 TRAMMEL
8/29/08	BURGLARY OF A RESIDENCE	6500 TRAMMEL

## *A Ridgewood Park Original Homeowner shares her story.*

Bernice and Ben Christopher started building their home on Highgate Lane in 1953 and on Valentine's Day in 1954, Bernice, Ben and their two children, Carol and Brian moved in and have called it home ever since. With the birth of their son Mark in May of '54, the family thought they were settled for good when the Magnolia Pipe Line Company offered Ben a transfer to Midland, Texas and from there to Paris, France! You see, Ben was a Mechanical Engineer and his company loaned him to the French government to help build a pipeline bringing oil into France from the port city of LeHavre.

After a couple of years in the oil fields of Midland, Beaumont and France, the family returned to their home on Highgate Lane. In those years, Bernice was a homemaker and loved to garden and cook. She and Ben raised their children and watch them graduate from Dan D. Rogers, Hillcrest High school and go on to attend college; Carol to SMU, Brian to A & M Commerce and Mark to Richland College.

Bernice lost her husband Ben in 1972, much too young, even for a smoker. It was after Ben's death that she began working as the Bridal Gift Consultant for Neiman Marcus, North Park; a job she dearly loved and retired from many years later.

Bernice was blessed to find love again and remarried, but always remained in her home on Highgate Lane - fifty-four years now, as a matter of fact. Many of you may know Bernice by the name she assumed when she remarried, Bernice Jennings.

Bernice tells me that over the years, "I have traveled to all fifty U.S. states, all the Canadian Provinces, China, Mexico and some thirty-five countries in Europe. It has been a great life!" In addition to her many blessings and accomplishments, she has enjoyed having a college degree from Texas Women's University in Home Economics "because that is an interest in my life."

When I asked Bernice to tell me a little bit about the neighborhood when she and Ben first moved here, she recalls that Abrams was just a round topped county road at that time. In fact, the area west of Abrams was just woods and meadow then and her boys used to play there along the creek! When she and Ben were building their house, the streets of Dunstan and Danbury were just being developed as well.

The Hillside Village shopping center was then located on the northeast corner of Mockingbird and was the only developed shopping area at that time. The grocery store was located where Stein Mart is now and it was the old A&P. In addition to the A&P there was also a very nice furniture store in that shopping center. In fact, Bernice still has a bedroom suite from that store!

I can truly say it has been an honor and a pleasure visiting with Bernice and realizing she has lived quite a life and remains active. I wonder what stories I will be able to tell when I have made a life and a home for 54 years! Thank you Bernice for sharing your story.

## **28 Ridgewood Park Welcome Packets Delivered to Date**

Since January, twenty-eight Ridgewood Park Welcome Packets have been delivered to new residents. To date, seventeen homes are currently listed, with one additional home sale pending. The Ridgewood Park Welcome Packets, published by the RPNA, and delivered by the Welcome Committee Volunteers, inform new residents about garbage, recycling, bulky trash (with collection schedules), city code, hazardous wastes, crime prevention, homestead exemptions, history of the neighborhood, and more.

The twelve Welcoming Committee Volunteers, Shirleye Noah, Christy Coman, Salli Whittaker, Fay Whitten, Sherri McBeath, Melissa Dorman, Jodee Sedalnick, Ernest Brandt, Kim Kelley, Rose Alsup, Kathleen Lynch and Amy Timmerman (who recently moved), try to personally meet each new neighbor. Although it is not a requirement to do so, many volunteers bake brownies, cookies and other treats to deliver with the welcome packets, too! Needless to say, we have a caring team of volunteers who are dedicated to helping our new neighbors become acquainted with the neighborhood, become informed, and also feel welcomed.

The Welcoming Committee does an excellent job of identifying home turnover within the neighborhood, but occasionally, a home will sell or lease without being listed and the new resident is overlooked. If you are aware of a home on your block that falls into this category, or, if you are new to Ridgewood Park *and you have not received a Ridgewood Park Welcome Packet*, please contact the Welcoming Committee at [admin@ridgewoodpark.org](mailto:admin@ridgewoodpark.org).

**Currently, the Welcoming Committee is looking for a volunteer to welcome new residents to the 6400 and 6500 blocks of Danbury.** This is a volunteer position that requires a small amount of time, but makes a big difference. If you live on Danbury, and you are interested in this volunteer opportunity, contact the Welcome Committee Chair, Kathleen Lynch, at the e-mail address listed above.