

A good neighbor to know

Volunteerism and community service are a tradition in the Hopkins family. "I grew up with the idea that you do something," explains long-time LGNA volunteer Gay Hopkins. Her father was president of the school board in Gay's hometown of Sulphur Bluff, Texas.

Gay's husband, J.R. "Jimmie" Hopkins, was a 30-year volunteer with the Dallas Police Reserves, investigating accidents and riding radio patrol. In fact, Jimmie had volunteered to work traffic and crowd control downtown on November 22, 1963, when JFK was assassinated. Retiring as a captain from the Police Reserves, Jimmie is still active with volunteer relief groups.

Gay and Jimmie's daughter Linda is active in her church, and their son Ron died while on duty with the Dallas Police Department. One grandson is a firefighter with the DFD and a volunteer firefighter and police reservist in Crandall.

Gay's community service began with activities at her church and PTA work at Robert E. Lee. She began paying attention to neighborhood issues in the late '80s. "I was on the fringes," she says. "Aware of issues but still very active in church work."

Gay first attended City Council meetings on the street plan that involved widening Skillman and making Greenville/Matilda one way. "But the first time I went down to City Hall and spoke, I spoke as an individual." Gay had started her own business, Hopkins Books, and researched which city licenses she needed to conduct her business.

After hearing about a business in the Lower Greenville area operating without city permits, Gay's concern quickly developed into an interest in zoning matters, and she continues to follow all issues involving the Lower Greenville area. At City Hall, she is well-known and well-respected as an intelligent, thoughtful, and courteous lady. She's also had a longtime interest in the neighborhood, serving as president and vice president of LGNA.

When asked why she has devoted her life so tirelessly to community service, Gay looks down, pauses thoughtfully, and then modestly explains, "It's what I do."

LGNA periodically features a profile on interesting and/or inspiring neighbors. If you have a suggestion for a person to profile, visit www.lgna.net and send us a message.

May LGNA meeting

WHEN: Tuesday, May 17, 7:00 p.m.

WHERE: Greenland Hills United Methodist Church at 5835 Penrose.

TOPIC: Your pet's health (see below)

Learn about pet health

Our good neighbor, Pet Supplies "Plus", located at Mockingbird and Skillman, will be bringing a bounty of information for maintaining your pet's health and safety to this month's LGNA meeting (see above).

Pet Supplies "Plus" regularly provides low-cost Pet Micro Chipping. Manager Bethani Pittman will explain what's involved and why it makes good sense to "chip" your pet. Their next low-cost session is scheduled for Saturday, May 21. Proceeds will benefit the Dalmatian Rescue Group.

Stephanie Bell from Merrick dog and cat foods will explain the benefits of feeding a healthy, holistic/organic diet. Merrick was recently certified as the 2005-2006 Pet Food of the Year.

Pet-care professionals will answer your questions about your pet's health in a Q&A session, and Pet Supplies "Plus" will bring goodie bags and discounts for all attendees. See our website for more information.

Participate in a tradition

The annual LGNA potluck dinner has been a fixture in our neighborhood for over ten years. Originally a picnic, the event has been moved indoors and is the only activity scheduled for our Tuesday, July 19 meeting. The idea is to come, talk and be neighborly. Bring a side dish or dessert. LGNA will provide a meat dish for all.

Household Hazardous Chemical Collection

As residents begin their spring-cleaning, many will find old paint cans or yard chemicals that have been sitting around year after year. Dallas residents usually have two options for disposing of home chemical waste: Drop-off service at the Home Chemical Collection Center (HC3) or a Home Chemical Collection Event. Our neighborhood is relatively close to the HC3 (11234 Plano Rd, north of LBJ Freeway), so there won't be a Collection Event held in our area; however, the HC3 has given LGNA permission to accept household hazardous waste during our May 2005 LGNA meeting.

We will collect items such as oil filters, used motor oil, antifreeze, batteries, fluorescent light tubes, paint products, and yard chemicals. The HC3 specifically does not accept business/medical waste, explosive/shock-sensitive materials, containers larger than five (5) gallons, smoke detectors, and common recyclables (plastic, glass, aluminum). Common recyclables should be taken to City of Dallas drop-off locations or placed in blue bags for pickup by Sanitation. We will be accepting home chemicals starting at 6:45 p.m. until 8.00 p.m. in the parking lot on May 17 only. Please do not bring items inside the Church or leave items at any other time. The HC3 has extended hours on Tuesdays and is open two Saturdays per month if you are not able to attend on May 17.

If you need additional information, call the HC3 at (214) 553-1765, or go to Web Links on our website. Thank you for helping to dispose of these chemicals properly.

St. Patrick's Party Recap

For several years, the Lower Greenville Avenue St. Patrick's party has been an annual event. Traffic on Greenville is blocked off between Vanderbilt and Vickery for the block party sponsored by the Greenville Commerce Assoc.

Three neighborhood associations – Lower Greenville, Vickery Place, and Greenland Hills – have worked with the City and GCA to lessen the event's impact on residents. Police patrol is stepped up, and parking is limited to one side of streets between Morningside and Goliad to decrease congestion and allow passage of emergency vehicles.

Each year LGNA tries to provide as much information as possible to area residents beginning with a reminder in the January newsletter, specific details in the March newsletter, along with a flyer, map and emergency phone numbers to residents of the affected streets. As well as distributing newsletters, LGNA volunteers participated in the City's planning meeting, and constructed, posted, and removed no-parking signs on the streets east of Greenville Avenue.

Thanks to neighborhood volunteers Julia Alderete, Patricia Carr, Diane Evans, Ken Ferguson, Gay Hopkins, Michele and Candace Houston, Paul and Angela Hunt, Jaime Ibarra, Janie and Curtis Kizer, Eric Shackelford, Paul Wehrle, and Kathryn Willison. Special thanks to Julia for coordinating LGNA's efforts.

To help cover newsletter costs, LGNA sold green St. Patrick's T-shirts. Many thanks to those residents who purchased them.

City Comprehensive Plan

After City Planner Peer Chacko explained the Dallas Comprehensive Plan project at LGNA's November 2004 meeting, several residents decided to participate in citizen workshops and open houses. One of those residents was LGNA board member Patricia Carr who attended several sessions.

The results of the first- and second-phase workshops have been presented to the City Council. Go to www.DallasCityHall.com and click on "Council Committee Briefings"

and follow the links to the April 19 Briefing Preview to see a copy of that report and a picture of Patricia and City Plan Commissioner Neil Emmons presenting their team's vision for the city.

For more information on the Dallas Comprehensive Plan, go to www.ForwardDallas.com, and to the January newsletter in the story archives at www.LGNA.net.

The English Gardener

If you begin to see more lovely yards and gardens in the neighborhood, it may be because of noted author and lecturer Patrick Butterworth, the English Gardener.

At LGNA's March meeting, Mr. Butterworth, a columnist in Park Cities People and Lakewood People, gave fascinating insight into numerous facets of gardening and landscaping, including how to build a compost pile, appropriate plants for Texas, designing for flowers and shrubs, and slides of stately gardens in England as well as examples of his own work in our neighborhood. All who attended were delighted by Patrick's wit and good advice.

Huge yard sale!!!

There will be a huge church yard sale at Greenland Hills United Methodist Church on May 14th... all Day. For more information, or if you'd like to donate items, call 214-826-2060.

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IMPORTANT CITY LINES

Veletta Lill	214-670-5415
Action Center	214-670-5111 or 311
Sanitation Dept.	214-747-2600
Code Enforcement	214-670-5708
Animal Control	214-670-8226
Heavy Trash	214-747-2600
