

Communicator

Merriman Park/University Manor Neighborhood Association

November 2007



Fall Festival!

It's that time again!

Hard to believe the **MPUM Fall Festival** is just around the corner.

This year promises to be bigger and better than ever.

Door prizes from our local merchants!
Delicious food!

Your neighborhood association will provide barbequed brisket, chicken and ham from **Porkies**.

The residents will fill in with casseroles, veggies, salads and, of course, desserts. YUM!

Be sure to join the **Fun!**
Bring your favorite covered dish!

And, your neighbors!

Tuesday, November 13th at 7:00 p.m.

Hotchkiss Elementary
School

Don't Miss It!



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT:

Usually the announcements are at the back but this month we have a special announcement we consider front page news. In this day and age of revolving-door relationships one couple has stood the test of time and we would like to recognize them.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Bob and Jeannine Verinder
of Fenton Drive who are
observing their
60th wedding anniversary!



The Woodrow Wilson High School Sweethearts (Class of '46) were married November 26, 1947 in Dallas and have lived in the Dallas area ever since.

Bob is retired from Lone Star Gas, Jeannine from Southwestern Bell Telephone.

The family will celebrate with a reunion made up of the couple's three sons and wives, six grandchildren and spouses, and five great-grandchildren.

If you know of a special announcement or mile marker to share with us please email the newsletter staff. info@mpum.com

CRIME WATCH

CHRISTMAS IS UPON US

Everyone needs to be especially vigilant this time of year when crime is notoriously up. Don't leave gifts where they can easily be seen from outside, be careful and watchful in retail parking lots when you are Christmas shopping, do not leave items exposed in your car and after Christmas, tear down any boxes that reveal what new items you have inside.

BUSTED

10/17/07 - The Dallas Police Department caught and "recovered" merchandise from several area residential burglaries, including many in our neighborhood. **VIP Rick Webber** busted another robbery in progress that ended up providing a positive tie to the same car and license plate used in other break-ins. The car was impounded, but it was later released to the owner. Since the car was released, everyone needs to keep their eye out for the following car and if it is EVER spotted anywhere in this neighborhood, call 911 immediately and tell them this car is in our neighborhood and has been involved in multiple break-ins:

2006 4-Door Black Kia AV6 AMANTI
License 642 VGH

According to Rick, the windows are not tinted because when he observed the car he could clearly see occupants.

More great news: 10/24/07 - Undercover DPD police officers busted up another group responsible for at least 4 thefts a day from our whole area, and other areas in Dallas. This group was stealing bikes - taking opportunity of garages being left open.

DPD REORGANIZATION

With a recent reorganization of DPD, a new CENTRAL division was launched, which shifted all

the boundaries. We are still in the Northeast division, and we are still Reporting Area 1085, but our Police Beat has changed from Beat 215 to 214.

The Dallas Police Department is also making an effort to organize in such a way that places more patrols in neighborhoods on a regular basis. If you have seen a lot more patrol cars lately, it may be a great sign and a reason you should feel comforted.

VOLUNTEERS IN PATROL:

We now have 14 VIP patrollers and need as much help as possible. Once you go through the 6-hour training you make your own time, so if you have 30 minutes a month, an hour or more - consider giving us a hand. Call Dottie Giesler at 214-349-7028 or send an e-mail to info@mpum.com if you need more information.

VIP DIRECTORIES

We have put together a telephone directory for our VIP patrollers so they are able to call you when they see anything suspicious around your house. One issue the Dallas Police Department is really stressing is to remove temptations that make the area as a whole a target. There are two things that they ask all residents to do:

1. Make sure your garage door is closed at all times when you are not within eyesight of it.
2. Do not leave ANYTHING in sight in your cars that will tempt criminals to break into your car.

The DPD has asked the VIPs to help them crack down on these two sources of crime. If you get a call because your door is observed open and no one is in sight, please know we are trying to help. Many times residents forget or don't realize they left the door open. Our directory includes published telephone numbers. If you would like us to have your cell phone number or business numbers to call in

case we observe anything out of the ordinary while patrolling, please send information to Donna Mason at info@mpum.com.

NEW VIP UNIFORMS

VIPs will soon be patrolling in dark green shirts, windbreakers and/or hats most of the time which will be one more way you can easily identify a VIP Patroller. Did you know that each VIP also has an ID card that has been furnished by The Police Department when DPD training was completed? All apparel items have our neighborhood name embroidered on them in gold and are paid for by each of the volunteers. Our Neighborhood Association paid for the magnetic car signs. So look for our cars with the magnetic signs, some cars with yellow flashing lights on top, patrollers in dark green shirts with their ID cards & Police Volunteer Patch - all ways to know your VIP Patrol.



HELP VIP PATROLLERS!

These volunteers use their personal cars and gas to keep us safe. Please run out back and look behind your house and see if you think the alley is safe for VIP cars. If there are any vines, shrubs, limbs, etc., that will scratch cars, please trim them back. If you see anything that could hurt tires, please pick it up. VIPers patrol REGULARLY down all of our alleys so please do your part and make sure the alley behind you is helping them do their job safely and without having to incur extra expenses for car/tire damage.

LIGHT UP THE NEIGHBORHOOD

We have a lot of people walking and jogging in the neighborhood and sometimes work

schedules leave people with little or no choice but to walk at dusk or a little after dark. We can help everyone by lighting the way so all the cracks in our aging streets and sidewalks can be clearly seen.

Also, VIP night patrols need to be able to see activity around your house in order to help keep you safe. And, light is extremely important to discourage criminals from coming into the neighborhood.

Please leave your porch lights on and, if possible, install flood lights with motion detectors. Street lights help but are hidden in trees so the most effective lighting is closer to the ground.

HELP US CLEAN UP THE COMMERCIAL AREA:

Several residents recently joined The Dallas Police on a very successful "Police Walk." We visited with the managers of all of the commercial

businesses near our neighborhood off of Skillman. As a result, we learned that the most important thing everyone needs to do is to call 911 and report any panhandlers and homeless people. The

businesses are just exhausted with the constant flow of these people and need our help. The Dallas Police Department tells us it has been proven that persistence pays off in this kind of situation. If we all call repeatedly, these people will move on to another location that is not quite so much trouble. So call 911 if you observe them anywhere in or around our neighborhood. And keep calling!

POLICE WEBSITE

The Dallas Police Dept. Northeast Substation has launched a Website that's loaded with crime statistics. We are **BEAT NUMBER 214** and **REPORTING AREA 1085**, so look for stats in those specific areas to see what's happening in our neighborhood.

www.northeastcrimewatch.org

CALL 911

Many of you are hesitant to call 911 when you see something suspicious in the neighborhood. The Dallas Police Department is begging everyone to please call when there is any doubt at all. Calls are completely secure and "bad guys" won't know who called.

Remember: **calls can be made anonymously**. When the dispatcher asks if you want to be contacted, simply say no.



When asked for your name, simply decline. The operators are only asking the questions they have been trained to ask on every call, but the police say that it's completely up to you if you identify yourself or not. So, if you're afraid someone will know who called 911—don't worry. Make the call, and don't release any of your personal information. The police want the information much more than to know who you are. Don't worry about whether you are right or not — let the police determine if someone is okay. They tell us that their success rate of catching thieves is highly dependent on private citizens making the calls—they love our calls.

KEEP OUR NEIGHBORHOOD BEAUTIFUL CALL 311 FOR CODE VIOLATIONS

Did you know you can report certain neighborhood problems from your computer? Just visit www.dallascityhall.com and look for the 311 link on the left side of the page. Click the link, and you'll be able report all kinds of problems. If you don't have a computer or just prefer, pick up the phone and dial 3-1-1. And once again, you can remain anonymous via the computer or over the phone—simply decline giving out any personal information.

OTHER NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS



WINTER PET TIPS

Antifreeze can be dangerous for dogs & cats. Be sure to clean up any vehicle spills, & consider using products that contain propylene glycol vs. ethylene glycol.

A longer coat for your dog provides more warmth, so wait to trim it when warmer weather nears.

Outdoor pets need more food in the winter. Routinely check your pet's water dish to ensure the water is fresh and not frozen.

Warm engines in parked cars attract cats and wildlife. Banging on the hood before starting the engine should give them ample time to slip out. Cats and dogs are prone to paw and ear discomfort in very cold weather, so remember not to leave your pet in a cold car.

BE KIND TO YOUR NEIGHBORS

The charm of our neighborhood can be described as beautiful and quiet. Be sure you and/or your pets are not disturbing your neighbors, especially at night.



YARD OF THE MONTH
October – 7105 Walling
November – 6990 Walling



ANNUAL DUES

Annual dues are \$15 per year, per household. If you're not sure if you've paid, check the paid list on our Website at www.mpum.com. If you do not have web access, contact Charley Ramirez, 214-341-1861. Please make checks to Merriman Park/University Manor Neighborhood Association.



OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

If you would like to contribute in a special way, you may send a donation along with your dues and indicate how you wish your contribution to be spent.



SUGGESTIONS/IDEAS/MUSINGS

How can we do things better in this neighborhood? Please send your suggestions to info@mpum.com or use the self-addressed envelope provided with this newsletter.

2007-2008

MEETING SCHEDULES:

All meetings will be held at Hotchkiss Elementary School at 7:00 p.m. unless indicated otherwise.

November 13th – Fall Festival

January 15th – Crime Watch, 7:00 at DPD NE Substation

March 18th - Beautification

May 20 - Election of new Officers

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSOR – Applebee's, Medallion Center

The Communicator is a publication of the Merriman Park/University Manor Neighborhood Association, P.O. Box 820803, Dallas, TX 75382-0803. Articles, letters and suggestions are invited and appreciated and can be mailed to the P.O. Box or sent via e-mail to info@mpum.com. *This issue of the MPUM Communicator was Paid for and Sponsored by Applebee's, Medallion Center, 6464 E. Northwest Hwy, Dallas, TX 75231, 214-361-7625.