

B T T H A

Buckner Terrace Homeowner's Association
 A Texas non profit organization, p.o. box 270131, Dallas, Texas 75227 **JUNE 2015**

From the Chair

I love this time of year because the pleasant weather brings out some of the things I love most about our neighborhood. Seeing families in the yard working on their landscapes together, school-age children organizing pick-up football games with their parents, people walking the neighborhood in small groups in fellowship with one another serve as a few mere examples of the beauty of our neighborhood that is often overshadowed by other issues and easy to take for granted.

This time of year also makes me remember the summers that I spent with my great-grandmother and my grandmother as a child. I mention one of my fondest memories because today is June 19th. Every June, we would eat vanilla ice cream and Big Red to commemorate. Juneteenth, as it is called celebrates the arrival of General Gordon Granger with news to Texas and other southern and western states, that the Emancipation Proclamation had been declared and that according to General Orders No. 9: *The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property, between former masters and slaves and the connection heretofore existing between them, becomes that between employer and hired labor. The Freedmen are advised to remain at their present homes and work for wages. They are informed that they will not be allowed to collect at military posts; and they will not be supported in idleness either there or elsewhere.*



Thank you to our dues-paying members, supporters, VIP, and especially to the volunteers who deliver the newsletter monthly. A special thanks to Daniel Wood for helping us redesign the newsletter to make the information easier to access for the reader!
Korey Mack

Neighborhood Highlights



- ◀ **Panda Express @ Walmart Parking Lot (Opening Soon)** ▶
- ◀ **Rice Bowl @ 5859 Samuell Blvd (Currently being Remodeled)** ▶
- ◀ **Waffle House @ 8111 E R L Thornton Fwy** ▶
- ◀ **Personal Touch Tree Service @ 4523 Samuell Blvd (Already Open - Building new office)** ▶

Key Neighborhood Dates

- **Bulk Trash** may be placed on your curb no earlier than Thursday June 18th, but no later than Monday, June 22th at 7:00am
- **June VIP Crime Watch Update** – Tuesday, June 30th 6:30 PM*
- **June Homeowner's Meeting** – Tuesday, June 30th 7:00 PM*
- **South East Dallas Police Division Crime Watch Meeting (open to Public)** – Monday July 13th 6:00 – 7:30PM *
- **July VIP Crime Watch Update** – Tuesday, July 28th 6:30 PM*
- **July Homeowner's Meeting** – Tuesday, July 28th 7:00 PM*
- **Bulk Trash** may be placed on your curb no earlier than Thursday July 23rd, but no later than Monday, July 27th at 7:00am



(*with exception of Bulk Trash, all events will be located at:
 5151 Samuell Blvd)



What is graffiti? Graffiti is marking, drawing, etching (or other methods) on public or private property without the owner’s permission. Graffiti is usually placed on road signs and electrical and phone boxes. It is usually done by an individual or group to gain recognition from peers and it is a crime.

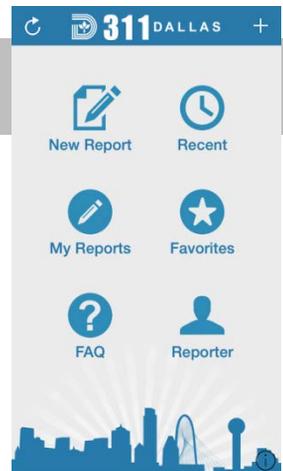
What does graffiti say about a neighborhood? What is the first thing that comes to your mind when you see “graffiti” or “tagging” in a neighborhood? Art? Intimidation? Free speech? Or Gangs? Most, but not all, graffiti is done by gang members to tag or mark their territory. Graffiti is not a victimless crime. We as residents are the victims. Neighborhoods that experience increased crime also experience increased fear among residents and businesses. This translates into lower property values, and loss of vital services and neighborhood businesses. Over time, the cycle of violence, fear, lawlessness and despair can result in the death to a once-vibrant community. Many potential home buyers and businesses are scared away from a neighborhood because of territorial tagging by gang members. Residents perceive abandoned homes, trash-filled alleys, junk vehicles, and tagging as signs of disorder and social disorganization. The more social disorder and graffiti in a neighborhood, the louder the message is sent that "nobody cares." This sets off a vicious cycle that encourages further crime in affected neighborhoods. The costs related to graffiti removal and other gang-related crimes is high. Far from being an act of harmless self-expression, graffiti is a crime of violence against an entire community because feelings of dread and desperation increase among residents and businesses. Eventually, economic growth ceases to exist in the neighborhood. The costs of abatement and law enforcement are forced on municipalities that are already financially stressed.

What can we do about GRAFFITI? A community’s first step in taking back its streets is getting rid of graffiti immediately. This power struggle cannot be won overnight, but persistent communities working in partnership with law enforcement almost always emerge as victors. A community graffiti removal volunteer team can be organized. Once the graffiti is gone, use landscape designs (such as prickly shrubs or closely planted hedges), building materials (such as hard-to-mark surfaces), lighting, or fences to discourage vandalism. This philosophy, known as Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, can help diminish the possibility of graffiti by changing landscaping, lighting, fencing, etc.

It’s time to put an end to the fearfulness within communities, economic losses to property owners and business, and the unnecessary financial woes caused by taggers and graffiti vandals. While there is no magic pill that will completely stop all tagging from occurring, property owners and businesses should no longer be forced to endure the painful perceptions of helplessness and hopelessness. To successfully eradicate graffiti all parts of the community must buy in to the program including businesses, property owners, police and the city of Dallas.

Code Violation Reporting

If you see any violations within the neighborhood, please take the time to report it to the City of Dallas Code Enforcement. There is an app for smartphones (an example of how that looks is pictured to the right). This app makes it quick and simple to make a report for violations such as high weeds, bulk trash violations, junk vehicles, dead or loose animals, graffiti, parking violation, stagnant water just to name a few. You can also report violations on the city of Dallas’ website at www.dallascityhall.com Or you can email our code officer Kelli Stevens at kelli.stevens@dallascityhall.com Working together, our neighborhood can look great and continue to have increasing property values!





Bobby Crawford's gorgeous yard at 5734 Winding Woods is June's Yard of the Month. Bobby chooses to do all the gardening himself. It is obvious that he is quite skilled.

June Yard of the Month Winner

BTHOA Yard of the Month



Second Place Yard of the Month Winners



Billy Griffin & Thomas Combs In one year these homeowners worked and continue to work to make their home an outstanding asset to BT. Not only is the yard at 5210 Banting Way beautiful, but so is the alley. If you drive by, be sure to check out the back.



4710 Fallon Place went from dead to beautiful in little over a year. Charles Wallace and his friends have worked endlessly to bring life to this desolate yard. Green grass and Gardenia bushes highlight his garden.

Yolanda Dupree at 5011 Clover Haven plants beautiful flowers each year. Thanks to Yolanda for making a difference in beautifying our jewel of a neighbor.

Hurry by to see the garden in full bloom at 4607 Fallon Place. Joe and Romona Bailey are the homeowners of this lovely garden.

