

## RPENA BOARD MEMBERS

\* \* \*

### PRESIDENT:

LAURA BIGI

### VICE PRESIDENT:

DAVID BUHLER

### SECRETARY:

CHERYL RIELLY

### TREASURER:

CALLIE SALLEE

### ACTIVITIES:

MEGHAN GILMORE

### BEAUTIFICATION:

SAM PUENTES and

JIM HAMBAY

### CRIME WATCH:

DIANE MOTT

### MEMBERSHIP:

AMY and TIM GILL

### MEMBER-AT-LARGE:

CINDY GAUTREAUX

### NEWSLETTER:

BROOKS SNYDER

# Richland Park Estates Neighborhood Association

March 2023

## President's Message

Dear Neighbors,

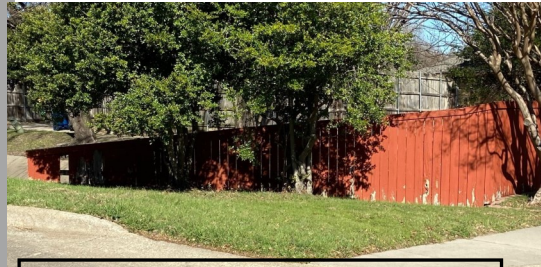
We will soon begin work on an exciting, all volunteer neighborhood project!

Many volunteers will be needed to tear down, replace and paint our Claymore bridge fence.

This fence has been in disrepair for several years. The fence materials have been purchased with RPENA funds. All the laborers will be your Richland Park Estates neighbors! Please join in and be ready to work. You don't need to bring anything, and you will be guided on how you can

best assist. There are a variety of tasks that need to be done. If you can hammer or lift a paintbrush, you are needed!

Since this project is weather dependent, you will receive short notice via email. The dates of **March 18** and **March 25** (both Saturdays) are being considered as possible start dates, weather permitting. You will be notified no later



This is the "Before" bridge fence. Please volunteer to construct the "After" bridge fence.

than the preceding Monday of the project start date. See you at the fence!

Neighbors are gathering for a casual, social get together

No RSVP necessary. Hope to see you there!

When: Tuesday, March 21 at 7pm

Where: Tuscany Italian Bistro

743 Brick Row#400

(intersection of East Spring  
Valley Rd. and Brick Row)

<http://tuscanyitalianrichardson.com/>

SEE YOU THERE!



**Caution!** An RPE neighbor was slightly injured when a dog on a leash came towards him barking. The neighbor backed up, falling off the curb onto the street. Dog walkers, please remember to restrain your pets when approaching others.



**Dog walking safety tip:** When walking in the neighborhood, be mindful of traffic patterns. Be respectful of cars, bike riders, and other pedestrians. If your dog becomes too excited, have him sit until the approaching person passes. (per VCA hospital website)

## Meet Your Neighbor! - - - Say Hello to Sam Nikkel



Long term Richland Park Estates residents probably know Sam Nikkel. He's lived in the neighborhood on south Halwin Circle since 1990. Back in "those" days he served on the neighborhood association Board. He and others were responsible for creating a lighting system for the front entrance, and for installing sprinkler systems for the flower beds there. Before the sprinkler system timers were installed, Sam would manually open the sprinkler valves, then turn them off 40 minutes later, to ensure that the entryway flowerbeds were watered.

Except for a few brief hellos, I hadn't met Sam. So, I thought that interviewing him for the RPE Newsletter would be a good way for everyone to get to know him. Sam greeted me warmly at his door and immediately invited me in. (His welcome was genuine -- as he led me to his office, I learned that he had not received my text message asking for a visit.)

Sam was born in 1945 in a small Texas panhandle town – right about the same time that his twin sister Priscilla was born. By early school age his family moved to a ranch near Corn, OK. In high school there were only 17 students in his senior class including **three sets of twins**. There was a lot of work to do on the ranch, but Sam was able to find time to play on the high school basketball team. He then attended Southwest State College in Weatherford, OK, graduating in 1967 with a degree in Accounting. Phillips Petroleum wanted to hire him, but Uncle Sam wanted him more, the Draft Board making an offer he couldn't refuse.

Within a year or so the small-town lad began traveling – to New Jersey (basic training at Ft. Dix), to Georgia (infantry training, then officer candidate training at Ft. Benning), to the Canal Zone (jungle warfare training at Ft. Sherman), to Louisiana (live fire training at Ft. Polk), and eventually to Vietnam.



Samuel  
Nikkel



Priscilla  
Nikkel

continued on page 3 — **Say Hello to Sam Nikkel**

## Say Hello to Sam Nikkel continued from page 2

**Second Lieutenant Nikkel** was assigned platoon leader under the command of the illustrious Lt. Col. David Hackworth whose fighting strategy was to “out-guerrilla the guerrillas”. He served at a

fire support base in a region called The Parrot's Beak near the Laotian border. When I asked Sam to describe some of his experiences, he deflected the question in the typical war veteran fashion, instead praising his commanding officer and the soldiers that he served with. His most memorable day was May 9, 1969, when he stepped on a land mine.



**Sam** spent 18 months of rehabilitation at Brooke Army Hospital, Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Tx, before retiring from the Army. On Sam's living room wall I noticed a triangular folded U.S. flag in a frame with some medals. Looking closely I saw a **Purple**

**Heart and Bronze Star with four clusters**, each for a separate act of valor and bravery.

**Sam** established himself as a successful Landman in the oil and gas industry, a career that he has intensely and immensely enjoyed. He is now mostly retired. As I left, I wondered how he remained so youthful. He offered me his life mantra: Stay sharp – find ways to always exercise your brain.

I'm glad that I've gotten to know Sam Nikkel. The experience has taught me that meeting and talking to my neighbors is rewarding. Each and every one has a unique and interesting life story.

### MEMBERSHIP PRIZE DRAWING MARCH 15

All **RPENA** members are eligible for a chance to win the prize of a beautiful gift basket created and donated by one of our neighbors.

*Not yet an RPENA member?*

[Join](#) by March 15 for your chance to win this special prize drawing!

### WEBMASTER Needed!

A volunteer is needed to maintain the

[rpenatx.org](http://rpenatx.org) website

Please contact [rpena.president@gmail.com](mailto:rpena.president@gmail.com).

## Volunteers In Patrol VIP



### Upcoming Training Dates

**When:** Saturday, April 1, 2023

**Time:** 9:00am-1:00pm

**Where:** Lochwood Branch Library  
11221 Lochwood Blvd, Dallas, TX 75218

**RSVP:** Friday, March 24, 2023

Copies of the requirements, application, and waivers can be requested from:  
[amber.oliver@dallascityhall.com](mailto:amber.oliver@dallascityhall.com)

DALLAS POLICE  
DEPARTMENT

Senior Corporal  
Amber Oliver #10113  
9915 E. Northwest Hwy  
Dallas, TX, 75238  
[amber.oliver@dallascityhall.com](mailto:amber.oliver@dallascityhall.com)

You must attend all 4 hours of this class to get credit and to receive your VIP ID.

**\*\*If you would like to attend this training class YOU MUST turn in a completed VIP application no later than Friday, March 24, 2023.\*\***

Applications may be returned by email or mailed to Senior Corporal Amber Oliver #10113 the Northeast Patrol Division.





## Beautification Report - - - Jim Hambay & Sam Puentes



**You can feel it when you go outside.** The snowmen no longer greet you when you enter our neighborhood. Spring is just around the corner. Up at the front entrance we had daffodils blooming, flowers planted many years ago by long forgotten resident gardeners of RPE. Some, not all, daffodils will come back in our region. Other traditional spring flowers like tulips and hyacinths will seldom come back for a second year of blooming like they do farther north. I am not sure if the reason is because of our

heavy clay soil or our lack of a cold enough winter for them. I asked once at the Arboretum whether they somehow dug up and stored their tulip bulbs for replanting in the fall. The answer was NO. The bulbs are just disposed of in some manner.

**Growing tulips & hyacinths here in Dallas** requires one to buy new bulbs each year. They then need to be chilled for a month or so to make them think they have gone through a cold winter, then you plant them sometime around Christmas. Only one RPE neighbor puts out this much effort every year and has a beautiful front yard full of Daffodils, Tulips, Hyacinths and Azaleas. **Carol Eardley at 13120 Halwin, thank you for making RPE beautiful in spring.**



**Winter may still strike us again** with some below freezing nights. Wait until later in March before you put out any tender flowers of tomato plants or be prepared to cover them if a frost is predicted. Try growing something from seed. This can be a fun project for the kids.

### **For information regarding events happening in our area of Dallas**

- **Dallas City Council District 10 Information – Also you can sign up to receive the District 10 Newsletter sent to your email inbox (great information)**  
<https://dallascityhall.com/government/citycouncil/district10/Pages/default.aspx>
- **Facebook page for our City Council Member – Adam McGough**  
<https://www.facebook.com/AdamMcGoughD10>
- **Subscribe to the Lake Highlands Advocate Newsletter (free - sent to your email inbox)**  
<https://lakehighlands.advocatemag.com/our-newsletters/>

## Vice President Bulletin Board - - David Buhler

**Alleys** - The houses in our neighborhood were constructed with rear entry garages, which makes it unnecessary for an excessive number of cars to be parked on the streets and deter from the general appearance and functionality of our neighborhood. Since we have to use the alleys to access our driveways/garages, they must be properly maintained so they can be used safely without causing damage to vehicles and allow access for larger vehicles that include garbage trucks, emergency vehicles, service trucks, etc. Using common sense, and according to City Ordinance, the property occupant or owner is responsible for keeping the alley clear of obstructions; which includes trimming trees, shrubbery, etc. that might obstruct (or damage) any vehicle traveling through an alley. Also, according to code, alleys must have an overhead clearance of 15 feet.

### **Police warning: Beware of “jugging” robberies**

**What is it:** Jugging involves thieves staking out unsuspecting victims at banks, ATMs or retail stores before following and robbing them while they juggle smartphones and car keys in parking lots or after following them home.

#### **Tips:**

- Avoid being targeted. Conceal bank slip envelopes inside a bag before exiting the bank.
- Take any valuables with you inside your next destination instead of leaving or hiding them in the car.
- Be aware of our surroundings at all times. If something doesn't look right, it probably isn't.
- If you think you're being followed, drive to your nearest police station or place of safety.

### **Deter mail thefts**

There have been some reports of thefts from mailboxes in the area. To help eliminate thefts of outgoing mail:

- Don't put anything in your mailbox for the mailperson to pick up. Seeing the flag up is inviting unscrupulous people to check the box.
- Sign up for “Informed Delivery” from the USPS (free service) at [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com). You will receive an email showing photos of your mail before it arrives.
- Install a locking mailbox.

### **TRASH COLLECTION SCHEDULE**

	<b>Scheduled Collection</b>	<b>Unscheduled Collection Instructions</b>		<b>Comments</b>
<b>Regular Trash &amp; Recyclable Pick up</b>	Tuesdays ----- Leave 2 ft space around carts (ex: fence, shrub, gas meter, etc.)	Roll carts not set out in time for collection will not be collected until the following week	If missed, call 311	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Close cart lids</li> <li>• Report damaged carts to 311</li> <li>• <u>Yes Recycle</u>: Paper, plastic, glass, metal cans, metal cans</li> <li>• <u>No Recycle</u>: Pizza boxes, metal hangers, diapers, clothes</li> </ul>
<b>Brush &amp; Bulky Trash (curbside)</b>	4th Monday (Set out on Prev Thurs)	<u>Take to:</u> NE Transfer Station 7677 Fair Oaks 214-670-6126	(M-F) 7am-9am (Sat) 7am-4pm	Must show proof of Dallas residency at Transfer Station
<b>Hazardous Waste</b>	None	<u>Take to:</u> Dallas County Chemical Collection Center 11234 Plano Rd 214-553-1765	(Tu) 9am-7:30pm (Wed-Th) 8:30 - 5:00 (2&4 Sat) 9am-3pm	chemical products for home use; paint & home repair products; lawn & garden chemicals; aerosol sprays; pool chemicals; craft & hobby supplies; cleaners & polishes; batteries of all kinds; auto fluids & oil filters; fluorescent light tubes; computers & cell phones
<b>Questions? <a href="https://dallascityhall.com/departments/sanitation/Pages/default.aspx">https://dallascityhall.com/departments/sanitation/Pages/default.aspx</a>, or Call 311</b>				