



Richland Park Estates

Neighborhood Association

AN UNOFFICIAL HISTORY OF DIA DE LOS MUERTOS

The history of Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) dates back over 3,000 years to pre-Hispanic Mesoamerican cultures like the Aztecs, who held rituals to honor the dead. The modern celebration is a blend of these ancient traditions and Catholic beliefs introduced by Spanish colonizers, which resulted in the holiday being moved to coincide with All Saints' Day (Nov. 1) and All Souls' Day (Nov. 2).

Ancient origins

Mesoamerican roots: Indigenous cultures in Mesoamerica, including the Aztecs, Maya, and Toltec, saw death as a natural part of the cycle of life and death, not an end.

Aztec traditions: The Aztecs held month-long celebrations in August, presided over by the goddess Mictecacihuatl, the "Lady of the Dead". Offerings were made to help the souls of the departed on their journey.

Modern symbolism and evolution

La Catrina: The iconic figure of La Catrina, an elegantly dressed skeleton, was created by Mexican artist José Guadalupe Posada in the early 20th century.

Cultural icon: Originally a political satire, La Catrina has become an enduring and recognized symbol of the Day of the Dead and is now a central part of its imagery.



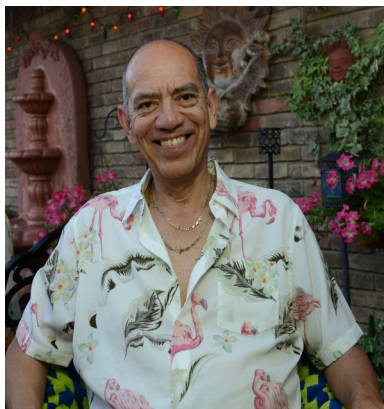
INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Letter.....	2
Health Info	2
Beautification Update.....	3
Around Town.....	4
Membership.....	5
Membership Part 2	6
District 10 Info.....	6
Membership Form.....	8

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Any ideas for added content to the newsletter?
- If you spot something you want to share with neighbors while on your walks, please take a photo and send to:
rpna.president@gmail.com.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



THANK YOU!

We thank you on behalf of your board members. We have a great board of volunteers who help RPENA do the work.

We need your support and thank you for paying your membership dues.

Have you had an opportunity to see the front entrance at Audelia and Claymore? The grass and shrubbery are beautiful. We thank Cindy and Joe Gautreaux, and all the volunteers who made it happen! In addition, have you seen the signs in the front lawn of your neighbors?

Our Membership, James Hambay has placed membership signs with permission all around our neighborhood. You can still join and show your support simply by paying your dues of \$110.00 and you can Zelle to RPENA or write a check.

I will gladly come to your home and pick it up if you prefer. Are you interested in being a block captain or a board position? You can speak to any board member, or reach out to myself, or send an email to rpena.president@gmail.com. Please check out our web page as well, www.rpenatx.org. Everyone is al-

ways welcome to volunteer or help with any activity that may be in progress. Thank you Board members, I am very grateful to each and everyone of you.

Our neighbors night out was very successful, there was food and prizes. Thank you to Meghan and Thomas Slavings for all your time and effort. We had great weather and neighbors as well as children.

Fall is now upon us and soon it will be Halloween. Please keep your lights on if giving out candy to the little ones.

Remember, please help your neighbor, kindness goes a long way and makes a difference. I pray we can all get better, for our country, for health and safety.

You can send questions to rpena.president@gmail.com or reach out to any board member. Please also visit the website rpenatx.org.

Sam Puentes

RPENA President

Meet the new slate of officers for Sept 25—26.

President -- Sam Puentes

Vice President -- Maria Tran

Secretary -- Carol Eardley

Treasurer -- Brooks Snyder

Membership Chairperson -- Jim Hambay

Crime Watch -- Diane Mott

Activities Chairperson -- Meghan Slavings

Beautification Chairperson -- Cindy Gautreaux

Newsletter -- Tim Gallegos

Member at Large -- Linda Duy

"During the day, I don't believe in ghosts. At night, I'm a little more open-minded." — Unknown

HEALTH UPDATE IN ZIP 75243

Influenza (Flu)

Parkland Health, Walgreens, CVS, Kroger and other outlets are offering flu vaccines for the entire family.

Public safety for seniors

Walking the neighborhood is a wonderful way to "stay in motion". Check out these safe walking tips by clicking [HERE!](#)

Air quality

According to [AccuWeather](#), the air quality index for Dallas is generally "Fair".

Sensitive groups may experience minor to moderate symptoms from long-term exposure. Unfortunately, we continue to have Dallas County positive West Nile trap readings, but the good news is human occurrences of West Nile virus has not increased. Continue doing what you have been in mitigation steps. Continue to use Deet, drain standing pools of water, and wear long clothing when expecting to be outdoors for long periods.

On other health matters, COVID continues to be detected in increasing levels in Dallas waste water as reported in the Dallas Morning News. For it to be in the volumes detected in waste water translates to very active viral activity in social circles.

RPENA BEAUTIFICATION UPDATE

Who's Ready for Fall?

Our gardens can certainly use a break from the grueling summer heat and believe it or not, it's time to start thinking about cool weather plants. Even though pansies seem to lead the pack for the winter, I've had great experiences with dianthus which are available in several colors along with alyssum which makes a great border plant.



Please take a few minutes to view the progress at the Audelia entrance. The perennials (which will be larger and stronger next year) are doing very well. As I've mentioned in previous articles, esperanzas need full sun to thrive and bloom. The south side of the entry receives far more sun than the north and it shows in the number of blooms:



Late autumn to late winter is the best time for pruning esperanza is after a hard freeze. They should be cut back to the ground or a few inches above the soil. Avoid spring pruning (new growth) as this may prevent flowering.

I have plenty of Texas Star Hibiscus seeds to share if you are interested. If you would like seeds or additional information, please feel free to email or text:

cindymail@sbcglobal.net
214-532-7728



AROUND TOWN IDEAS BY MARIA TRAN



Huffines Harvest Fest (Richardson Fall Festival)

Oct 18 & 19, Huffines Park, Richardson

Costume contests, children's entrepreneur market, live music, pumpkin decorating, petting zoo.

Plano International Festival

Oct 18, Haggard Park, Plano

Multicultural performances, children's workshops

Plano Fall Festival / Rest in Plano (RIP) Fest

Oct 25 (5:00 PM – 10:00 PM), Downtown Plano Arts District

Street festival vibe, family-friendly activities, local vendors.

Klyde Warren Park Trick-or-Treat & Movie Night

Oct 25 (5:00 PM – 10:00 PM), Klyde Warren Park, Dallas

Candy collecting, costume contest, and free movie screening (Wicked)

Autumn at the Arboretum

Sep 20 – Nov 2, Dallas Arboretum & Botanical Garden

Pumpkin Village, hay bale maze, seasonal displays, great photo ops.



OUR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE SEPT-NOV

By the time you read this, our annual membership drive will have passed it's halfway mark. At the time of this writing, 52 households have joined by contributing \$110 or more. In fact, 13 households have given more than \$110 including one \$300 check and another for \$500. Your financial support allows the RPENA Board Members to continue the work making our neighborhood a safe and beautiful place to call home. We thank you.

A SENSE OF COMMUNITY

As Sam & I walk the 6 streets that make up RPE, we feel a sense of community. The bright orange signs (Member/I Joined) identify all the neighbors who really care about where they live. We get that same feeling from the Halloween decorations and later from the winter holiday's décor. These are all neighbors who really care and we thank you for trusting that we will spend your money wisely.



NOW -- A CHALLENGE FOR YOU

I think it was 2 years ago that we drove up to McKinney to see their "Little Doors" on the town square. To our surprise, that November drive from US75 to the Square took us past at least 20 homes with giant blow-up turkeys commemorating the upcoming Turkey Holiday. We once again felt that sense of community. I challenge you to join us as we display our giant turkey in November. Temu and Amazon will offer you an abundance of choices starting at about \$30.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT (CONTINUED) BY JIM HAMBAY

As of 10/20/2025 we have 53 members paid with 13 having paid more than \$110 and including a \$300 & a \$500 check. If you paid on or after 10/20/2025, we will post a final membership drive update at the end of the drive.

This is an increase of 25 since last Monday's report. Acklin has the most with 12 paid, 1 less than last year's final count. Claymore has the highest percentage with 11 out of 17 homes paid for a 65% success rate. Plus Claymore is already 2 higher than last year. WOW !

Here are the generous neighbors who have already paid:

Acklin-12

9901 Tran
9910 Erickson
9915 Watts
9922 Suhr
9933 Bean
9945 McCleskey
9951 Kans
9952 Brooks
9957 Onyangore
9964 Smith
9969 Brooks
9970 Solorzano--New Neighbor
& Member

Burnham-9

9910 Adetutu
9922 Gill
9927 Venceil
9932 Buhler
9938 Clark
9939 Adams
9950 Clark
9951 Harris
9956 Steven

Harkness-2

13109 Munoz
13007 Gallegos

Claymore-11

9901 Martin
9915 Sheng
9920 Fuhr
9926 Hambay
9932 Sufi--New Member
9933 Chieng
9938 Slavins
9939 Olavarrieta
9944 Afeli--New Member
9945 Jansen--New Member
9950 Townsend



Fall Manor-8

12908 Egan
12933 Lewis
13015 McDaniel
13021 McDaniel
13040 Bigi/Snyder
13115 Heath
13120-22 Sitotaw--New Member
13202 Thurman

Halwin-11

13009 Reilly
13021 Ng
13109 Mott
13115 McConnell
13120 Eardley
13121 Gautreaux
13138 Bakhwala
13139 Tracy
13144 Soto
13156 McGraw
13157 Embry



DISTRICT 10 INFO



District 10,

Our office has received several reports and concerns from residents about coyote activity along the Lake Highlands Trail and surrounding areas. I know how unsettling it can be to see wildlife acting boldly in our

neighborhoods, especially when many of us enjoy walking our pets or spending time outdoors on the trail.

I want you to know that we've been in close communication with Dallas Animal Services (DAS), and they are actively monitoring the situation to ensure the safety of both residents and pets. Below is an update on what's been happening and what's being done to address it.

We understand that many neighbors are concerned and anxious about safety. Please know that we are taking the situation seriously, coordinating with DAS and wildlife professionals, and committed to ongoing monitoring and outreach. Your vigilance, reports, and cooperation with safety practices are a crucial part of community defense.

If you have any questions or want to share further observations, please feel welcome to reach out.

Thank you for your attention and for helping to keep our neighborhood safe.

COYOTE SIGHTINGS IN YOUR AREA

Typical Urban Coyote Behavior

- May be heard or spotted at a distance during the day or night
- May cross through yards or driveways when humans are NOT present
- Skittish and easily scared off by noise or approaching humans

What to do:
Call the Coyote Hotline at **469-676-9813** to report the coyote to Dallas Animal Services. This hotline is a data-gathering tool that goes to a voice mailbox. Please leave your contact information. Calls are monitored and documented 7 days a week.

Concerning Coyote Behavior

- Enters yards, porches, picnic areas, or other spaces frequented by humans
- Is not easily scared off or startled
- Steals food off of porches



What to do:
Employ hazing methods to let the coyote know that they are not welcome. Make noise, wave your arms, toss objects near (not at) the coyote, spray them with a hose or otherwise annoy or scare the coyote until they leave. Then, call the Coyote Hotline and follow the instructions listed below.

What to report: Address of coyote encounter, time of encounter, description of encounter, whether hazing efforts were successful in starting and scaring off the coyote, if the coyote was spotted eating trash or food meant for humans or pets, whether children or pets were present, and any signs of illness or injury.

Aggressive Coyote Behavior

- Aggressively approaching, entering personal space, or attacking humans or pets

What to do:
GET TO A SAFE LOCATION AND CALL 9-1-1 IMMEDIATELY.

Learn more: <http://www.bedallas90.org/coyotes> effective date 10/17/2022

WE NEED YOU !



More than 40 years ago the homeowners of Richland Park Estates (RPE) formed an association to represent themselves to the city of Dallas and to improve their neighborhood and thus enhance the values of their properties. Two trees were planted at the entrance and two large flower beds were created. Crepe Myrtles were planted where Claymore crosses over the creek. Over time, lighting was added to the front entrance and sprinkler systems were installed. In more recent years surveillance cameras were installed which resulted in our neighborhood being almost completely free of crime while surrounding neighborhoods face crime almost daily. All this of course costs money and the wise homeowners of RPE have generously funded this association of neighbors over the years. The yearly dues are a mere \$ 110/year, less than \$ 10 a month. Last year (2024-2025) 70 of your neighbors supported the Richland Park Estates Neighborhood Association, ten giving more than the \$ 110. **WE NEED YOU !**

Our annual dues drive is now in progress and we urge you to act now before you forget or misplace this letter. You may pay by check (payable to **RPENA**) delivered directly to me (or any officer). If you use Zelle you may direct your payment to RPENA.President@gmail.com and please place your street address in the "Memo" area. Please complete the form below and send it with your check or drop it by my home if using Zelle. Thanks for your support. **WE NEED YOU !**

Jim Hambay, Membership Chairman

WE NEED YOU !

9926 Claymore Drive

972-792-8400 Jim-Sam@sbcglobal.net

-----CUT HERE-----CUT HERE-----

Address: _____

Name(s): _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Alternate Emergency Contact: _____

May we publish your name(s), address & preferred phone number in a directory distributed to members only? Yes No

Would you be interested in getting more involved in RPENA? Yes No