



# PEAK'S EDITION

## NEIGHBORHOOD RESOURCES SURVEY

CONTRIBUTED BY MARGARET FISKELL

URS Corporation is working under a professional services contract with the City of Dallas. The City has authorized this survey to update information about

the historic structures and other historic elements in this neighborhood. URS Corporation has been asked to survey the neighborhood and district as part of a comprehensive update to the City's Historic Resources Survey done in the late 1980's and early 1990's.

Individuals with URS Corporation will be going block by block in the neighborhood to record information about what types of buildings exist now and information about the historic past of this area. Pictures will be taken of the exterior of houses and buildings from the street or sidewalk. The timeline will follow a 30-45 day schedule beginning in mid-July. Please contact me if you have any questions.

**General Meeting**  
There will be no August General Meeting.  
Meetings will resume September 1st.

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## THE GREEN LINE

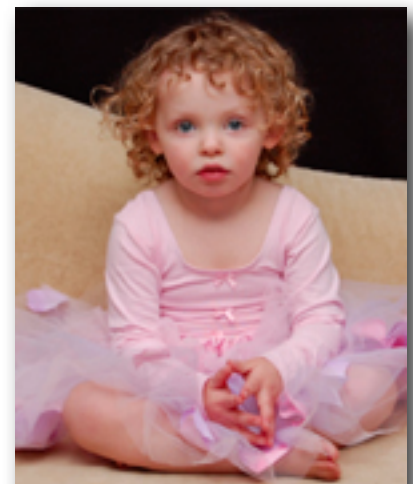
BY SHARON MIELKE

### How to Deal With Leftover Prescription Medications

Dispose of unused medications in your trash can rather than flushing them down the toilet or sink. Sewage-treatment plants can't remove all chemicals and if in the outflow are harmful to marine life. Male fish, for example, are becoming female because of drug contaminants(hormones) in waterways.

Follow these disposal procedures recommended by the EPA:

- Keep medicine in its original container, scratching out the patient's name.
- Check if any drug disposal program is available locally.
- Before discarding in the trash, modify drugs to discourage consumption by adding a small amount of liquid to pills, adding salt, charcoal, or spices to liquids.
- Seal the container shut with strong tape.
- Place it in a nontransparent bag. (Don't hide it in food garbage).
- Discard it as close to the scheduled garbage pickup time as possible.



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**CRIMEWATCH UPDATE**

BY JANET STARING

The following is a recap of the crime stats for Peaks Addition. These stats are for the 28 day period from June 17<sup>th</sup>-July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009 and are provided by Kelly Qualls, Crime Analyst for the Central Patrol Division, Dallas Police Department.

According to Mr. Qualls, "the trend that bothered me most were the aggravated robberies (5 in the past 28 days, vs. 1 for the preceding 28 day period. Good News: Of those 5, only 2 appear to be potentially dangerous to the public. Also, on the other three robbery offenses, one of them, a homeless on homeless, we made an arrest."

More in depth on the robberies:

- 6/17/09, 4:00pm, 4700 Worth St. Suspect kicked down door to apartment, took property by force. Suspect and victim used to date one another, and offense stemmed from an argument.
- 6/28/09 8:50pm, 4200 Live Oak. Suspects offered to help victim, who had car trouble. Suspects drained oil, demanded payment. Victim refused, suspect punched victim demanding payment.
- 7/2/09 8:18pm, 4300 Live Oak (DART Bus Stop). Arrest made. Suspect demanded \$5 from victim, saying he was owed the money. Victim refused, suspect cut victim. Suspect and victim both homeless.
- 7/3/09 5:00pm, 4700 Elm. Suspect, armed with handgun, and demanded money from victim. No injuries.
- 7/5/09, 3:00pm, 900 N. Haskell. 2 Suspects approached victim, demanded money. Victim refused, and suspects punched victim, took his cell phone.

The last two incidents, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 5<sup>th</sup>, appear to be legitimate offenses. **The fact they occurred in the afternoon and not late at night is something to be aware of.**

On the 7/3 offense, the suspect is described as a Latin Male, in his 20's, 5'2", 160 lbs, heavy build (at 160 lbs?). He was armed with a blue steel semi-auto pistol, and was last seen wearing a black polo shirt and blue jeans.

On the 7/5 offense, both suspects are black males in their 40's. One is 6'6" and 200 lbs, LSW (last seen wearing) a black tank top and black knee length shorts. The other is 5'8", 160lbs, LSW grayish black jeans and a baseball cap.

Mr. Qualls stated, "from what I've seen in the past couple of months in individual robberies in East Dallas, in general, we seem to have fewer offenses with repeat suspects, meaning we aren't seeing as

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many trends in MO and suspect descriptions as we usually do. The robberies described above seem to fit that trend, as I've not seen these suspect descriptions in other offenses."

Most of the robberies seemed to be centered around the Peak and Sycamore area.

BMVs ( Burglary of Motor Vehicles) : 4 for the 28 day period. Most of those centered around Peak and Worth.

Other Thefts: 5 for the 28 Day period. Most of those centered around Peak and Sycamore (same area as the robberies). That area will probably be an area the beat officer in the area begins to give more attention.

## TASK FORCE UPDATE

BY RENEE MANES

July applications for "Certificate of Appropriateness" (CA):

- **4314 Trellis Court** - new carport in rear

Hail damage alert...first came the June 11th flood, then Mother Nature's second act, a tumultuous hail storm. Like me, if your roof was damaged in our recent hail storm and you are having a new roof added to your house, remember that you must submit a CA application for the work BEFORE it is started. Mark Doty, our city representative, said that if the new roof will be the same as your existing roof, your CA application will be considered "routine maintenance". If you are changing either the color or the type of shingles, then the application will have to go through the regular channels. So in our case, we also lost two windows, had lots of garden damage and both of our cars have little dents all over them. The curious thing is that I just had my car painted five days before the hail storm. Ah life. Gosh, I wasn't even supposed to power wash it for thirty days.

CA applications due to Mark Doty at City Hall by Thursday August 6th.

## A JOB TITLE YOU DON'T WANT

BY EVELYN MONTGOMERY

Though it may sound undesirable to us, men once competed for the job of "city scavenger" because it carried a bit of authority and a lot of opportunity for profit. The city scavenger was in charge of the precursor to our modern solid waste removal companies, and in many cities was the first organized attack on the problem of garbage removal. Previously, garbage was thrown into the street, and there it sat. This was as disgusting as you are imagining, except worse, because you forgot about the horses everyone rode, which make mess all day long until they drop dead, right in the street, as often as not. Trash removal was always aided by volunteer scavengers, both human and animal. The humans looked for anything that could be sold or used. Unburned bits of coal could warm a poor family. Rags could be sold to paper manufacturers. Children and women often helped the family by their scavenging labor. By the mid 1800s many cities decided it was the job of city government to in-

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sure clean streets. Dallas created the office of city scavenger in 1882. The scavenger was appointed by the city council, and for his term of service he was responsible for collecting all the trash and removing it to a designated dumping spot. To employ such a person was one mark of a good modern city. In 1890, the city of Kaufman, population 4,000, proudly listed among the city's virtues, the clean streets made possible by their new scavenger.

Competition for the job could be quite fierce, with candidates appearing before the council to be elected. Aside from the obvious unpleasant aspects of the job, the scavenger had to provide his own wagons for hauling the trash, and had to post a bond with the city to insure he would properly carry out the duties of his office for two years, and he received no salary. He was held criminally liable for failures to uphold the trash ordinances. His job could be used in jokes. Where today we might suggest an acquaintance couldn't get elected dogcatcher, city scavenger was the preferred term in 1892. What motivated the scavenger? He collected his pay from the people who wanted their trash removed, and from those who didn't. If you harbored piles of smelly garbage, your neighbors could report that abuse to the city and you would be visited by the scavenger, with his bill in his hand.

Obviously, the fees from trash producers were important, but the real profit was in selling all the goodies careless people threw out. But even more money could flow the scavenger's way. The scavenger was assisted in his work by other men of his own choosing. If you know anything about urban politics in the 1800s, you can guess that becoming an assistant scavenger required presenting the head scavenger with a nice bribe, or marrying his ugly sister.

The real draw of the job was that the man became a city official, approved by the city council and vested with important responsibilities, managerial duties and an office in city hall. In Dallas, the position generally went to an African-American man, at a time when they were usually excluded from most opportunities for money, power and recognition. It was not until after 1940 that Dallas decided to stop farming out the job of trash removal and hired a force to carry such activities.



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